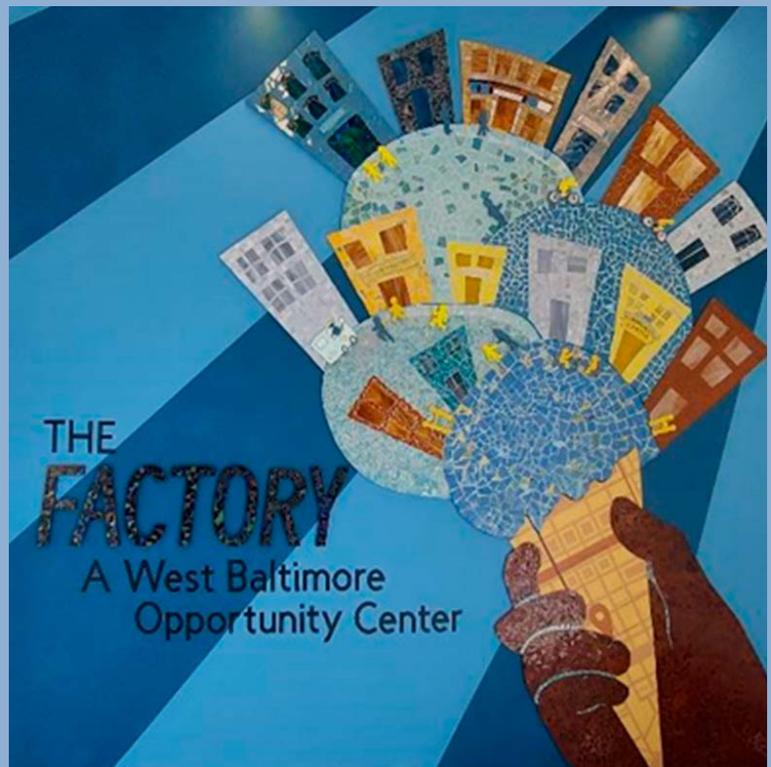


West Baltimore Renaissance Foundation

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



WEST BALTIMORE
RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION

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WEST BALTIMORE
RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION

ABOUT US

West Baltimore Renaissance Foundation (“WBRF”) was created as part of the November 2019 acquisition of Bon Secours Hospital Baltimore, now known as Grace Medical Center, by LifeBridge Health (LBH). WBRF operates as a nonprofit organization created to administer grant dollars from the HSCRC and to oversee the acquisition, redevelopment and programming of the 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.



L-R: Anna Tatro, Program Manager; Kurt Sommer, Executive Director; Daisa Johnson, Administrative & Building Coordinator

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE ►



WBRF Board Members as of June 30, 2025

Amy Shlossman
LifeBridge Health

Edith Gillard-Canty
Community Director

Dr. Trecia Henriques
*West Baltimore Emergency
Department Physician*

Charles Jackson
Baltimore City Mayor's Office

Sr. Mary Shimo
*Bon Secours Baltimore Health
Corporation*

Leslie Simmons
LifeBridge Health

Camille Blake Fall
*Maryland Department of
Health*

WBRF Officers and Staff as of June 30, 2025

Leslie R. Simmons
*Chair of the Board
Executive Vice President
and Chief Operating Officer
of LifeBridge Health*

Amy Shlossman
*President
President of Sinai Hospital
and Grace Medical Center*

David H. Krajewski
*Treasurer
CFO and EVP, LifeBridge
Health*

Jason H. Weiner,
*Secretary
General Counsel and SVP,
LifeBridge Health*

Kurt Sommer
Executive Director

Anna Tatro
Program Manager

Daisa Johnson
*Administrative and
Building Coordinator*



WEST BALTIMORE
RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION



DEAR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS,

FY25 was a truly transformative year for the West Baltimore Renaissance Foundation. After years of visioning, planning, and working alongside so many of you, we opened The Factory on May 13, 2025. What was once a vacant warehouse is now a vibrant gathering place where neighbors come for support, learning, creativity and connection. Seeing the building fill with life—programs in every room, residents stopping by, partners hosting events—has been one of the greatest joys of the year.

Even as we opened The Factory, our commitment to grantmaking continued. WBRF supported organizations across West Baltimore who are providing food, housing stability, mentoring, workforce services, health outreach and so much more. These partners are the heart of this work, and our investments help them reach thousands of residents each year. The Factory now offers partners a space where their mission-focused programs can grow and stay within reach of the community.

This has also been a challenging time for many nonprofits and for the communities they serve. Rising costs, fewer public dollars, and increased needs across neighborhoods have placed real pressure on organizations. In moments like these, the strength of our partnerships matters more than anything. Whether through grants or the shared space at The Factory, WBRF remains focused on supporting the work that makes a difference in people's lives.

As momentum builds at The Factory, we anticipate continued growth and impact. We will have the opportunity to add additional organizations to the building in the coming year. We are also actively fundraising for two spaces that will bring construction training as well as a commercial production and teaching kitchen. As we grow, we stay grounded in what residents tell us they need—ensuring that new efforts complement existing services and fill real gaps in our community.

Looking ahead, I am filled with gratitude. The progress we are making would not be possible without our residents, our partners, and the many community leaders who continue to guide and shape the work. We remain committed to deepening relationships, lifting up local organizations and making The Factory a place where everyone feels welcome.

Thank you for walking with us. Together, we will continue building opportunities, connections and pathways for West Baltimore.

With appreciation,

Executive Director
West Baltimore Renaissance Foundation

WEST BALTIMORE RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION IMPACT

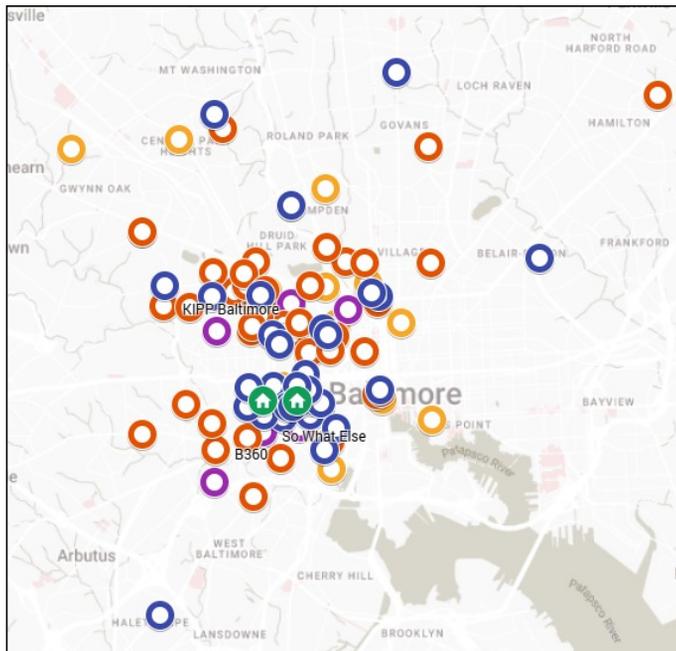
CELEBRATING ITS SIXTH YEAR, WBRF remains energized by the progress taking shape across West Baltimore. Through sustained partnerships with community leaders, residents and service providers, the organization continues to strengthen essential programs and initiatives that address the area’s socio-economic and health needs while encouraging greater stability and opportunity.

Since its inception, WBRF’s investments have contributed to more than 1,100 job placements for youth and adults, created nearly 13,000 youth programming opportunities, distributed over 3.8 million meals and enabled more than 18,000 individuals to access critical supports such as legal and childcare services, health education and outreach, violence interruption, mental health programming and financial literacy resources.

Over the past year, WBRF awarded 71 grants totaling \$5.87 million. This includes 8 Small Neighborhood Grants supporting community-building efforts and events, and 63 Program-Related Grants averaging \$93,131 to expand the delivery of essential services.

To date, WBRF has made 315 grants to 122 organizations including 101 grants focused on youth mentoring. WBRF’s cumulative investment through FY25 totals \$24.3 million toward programs and services designed to expand opportunity for West Baltimore residents.

These investments are concentrated across core areas of West Baltimore stretching from Mondawmin Mall to Carroll Park, Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and the city–county line.

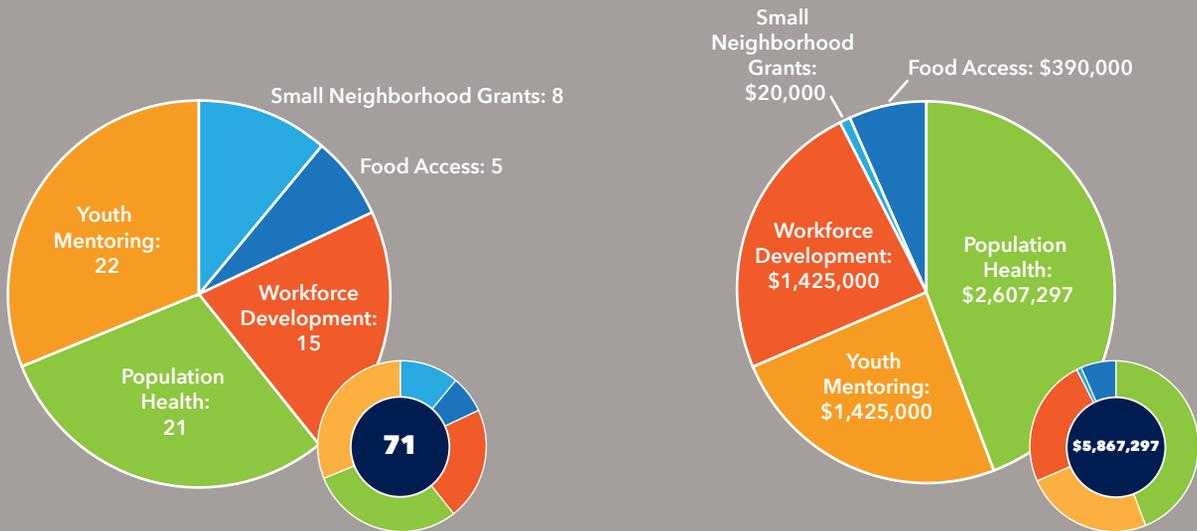


**TO DATE,
WBRF
HAS MADE**

315
GRANTS TO
122
ORGANIZATIONS

TOTALING
\$24.3M

WBRF BY THE NUMBERS FY 25



WEST BALTIMORE
RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION

\$24.3 MILLION

Invested to support West Baltimore programs and services

122 ORGANIZATIONS

serving West Baltimore accessing resources to bolster programming and expand operations

3.8 MILLION MEALS

provided to individuals including 4.4 million pounds of produce

13,124 YOUTH

participated in mentoring programming

1,100 JOB PLACEMENTS

for youth and adults

18,000 RESIDENTS

benefitted from housing, financial education, health, mental health, and other services

THE FACTORY

A WEST BALTIMORE OPPORTUNITY CENTER



WE FINALLY OPENED THE DOORS on May 13th, 2025 and The Factory has been buzzing with energy. In just a few short months, thousands of individuals have come through to take part in events, programs and gatherings that bring neighbors together. Our spaces—the Computer Lab, Classroom and Gathering Space—have quickly become spots for learning, connection and celebration. These spaces are also available for broader use, making The Factory a resource not only for our tenants but for the wider West Baltimore community.

Organizations of all kinds have stepped in to make the building come alive. NAMI Baltimore and the Grace Violence Response Team held support

groups to provide a safe place for neighbors to connect and heal. Baltimore’s Promise brought service providers together for Montaze Cooper Day and an employment resource fair, while VSP launched its healthcare career pathway training at The Factory.

The Baltimore Digital Equity Coalition hosted an all-day event to tackle the digital divide, and WBRF partnered with Maryland Nonprofits to host capacity building programming for nonprofit organizations and community members.

Safe Streets hosted a lively Back-to-School Cook-out and Giveaway that sent kids off ready for the new school year, and WBRF teamed up with Art with a Heart and neighbors to create a vibrant mural that now brightens the walls. The Enoch Pratt Free Library’s bookmobile rolled up every other week, quickly becoming a favorite stop for families taking part in the free Summer Reading Program. Youth mentoring groups—I AM MENTality, CareerBound, and the Baltimore Alliance for Careers in Healthcare—used the space to help young people build skills and confidence,



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INTRODUCING

THE FACTORY TENANTS AND YEAR-ROUND BUILDING USERS



BALTIMORE'S PROMISE is a city-wide collaborative composed of public, business, higher education, nonprofit, community and philanthropic leaders. They serve as a catalyst for organizing efforts and resources around a shared vision: all Baltimore City youth will travel a safe, healthy and successful educational path from cradle to career.



INNOVATION WORKS BALTIMORE is an innovative, collaborative resource network that connects neighborhoods, entrepreneurs, social innovation assets and investors to build sustainable neighborhood economies in Baltimore. At the Factory, Innovation Works is providing entrepreneurship development to create social enterprises.



FRANKLIN SQUARE SAFE STREETS violence prevention program reduces gun violence in Baltimore communities where homicide is a risk factor for young adults, ages 14-25. They employ outreach and violence prevention professionals to mediate and deescalate situations that may otherwise result in violence.



VSP, a division of Sinai Hospital, provides vocational rehabilitation, workforce development services and employment opportunities to individuals with disabilities and economic need. VSP is hosting the PATH program at the Factory to support West Baltimore residents with an interest in healthcare related training and employment.



NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization. NAMI provides advocacy, education, support and public awareness so that all individuals and families affected by mental illness can build better lives.



CENTER FOR HOPE'S GRACE VIOLENCE RESPONSE TEAM assists individuals who have experienced trauma and/or injury due to an act of violence or abuse, providing interventions and resources to improve health, lessen the impact of trauma, improve safety and decrease the likelihood of retaliation and increasing danger.



WEST BALTIMORE RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION is the manager of the Factory. WBRF provides time limited funding to nonprofits to address social determinants of health needs in West Baltimore. WBRF will be expanding its mission to take on convening, capacity building and programming functions in the Factory.

YOUTH MENTORING

WEST BALTIMORE'S YOUNG PEOPLE are energetic, creative and eager to contribute to their community's future. They are participating in mentoring programs, exploring career pathways and taking on leadership roles—demonstrating the potential that exists when opportunities are within reach. Yet many still face systemic barriers that make it harder to succeed. Persistent gaps in educational access, limited enrichment opportunities and the lasting effects of poverty, violence and substance use weigh heavily on youth and their families.

The Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance, Vital Signs 23, reports only 58% of high school students in West Baltimore graduate on time, and the youth unemployment rate remains nearly double the state average. Child poverty exceeds 60% in some neighborhoods, and chronic absenteeism affects more than 60% of middle schoolers in the hardest-hit areas. These realities highlight the importance of surrounding youth with the resources and encouragement they need to thrive.

Meeting these needs requires a comprehensive approach that nurtures both resilience and aspiration. Academic support, mentorship, safe spaces, health and wellness resources and career pathways are all essential parts of the solution.

In FY 25, WBRF partnered with 22 youth mentoring organizations that deliver these supports while also providing wraparound services to reduce barriers to participation. Together, these organizations are not only helping young people navigate challenges but also equipping them to lead, succeed and shape the future of West Baltimore.

As part of this portfolio, WBRF continued work with a dozen other funders as part of the Summer Funding Collaborative to help award over \$4.5 million to 76 organizations selected from 215 applicants across the city. The WBRF selected four West Baltimore serving nonprofits to support for summer programming through a total contribution of \$200,000.

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Below we highlight two of the year-round organizations that we supported. Both Requity and Unlimited Potential are experiencing growth in scale and impact.

REQUITY (*photo, previous page*) engages young builders in the hands-on renovation of the Carver House and its scaled model, the Carver Hut. Guided by experienced local mentors, students gain practical skills in masonry, carpentry and other trades—opening doors to future career opportunities while restoring energy-efficient homes. Beyond construction, Requity offers a culinary initiative where students prepare fresh, locally sourced meals for community events and neighbors in need, as well as financial literacy workshops that build essential life skills. Its fee-for-service enterprises—catering, masonry, graphic design and apparel production through its print & press shop, and photography—generate revenue while providing students with real-world work experience. Through these diverse efforts, Requity fosters community pride, builds connections and helps create a more sustainable future in West Baltimore.

UNLIMITED POTENTIAL (UP) (*at right*) has strengthened its role in West Baltimore, becoming the lead after school agency at Furman L. Templeton Elementary School, where it now has dedicated space and operates a student-run “Care Closet” stocked with free household essentials through a partnership with Amazon. UP’s collaborations

include Loyola University Maryland, which brings a Creative Mindset entrepreneurship course, volunteers, and tutoring support to the youth. UP partners with other WBRF grantees I AM MENTality and Youth As Resources to provide mental health workshops and advocacy training. With a robust plan to track grades, attendance, behavior and social-emotional growth, UP is combining academics, enrichment, leadership development and mental health supports to equip youth with the skills and confidence to succeed.



POPULATION HEALTH

WEST BALTIMORE residents are resourceful and resilient, and community-led efforts continue to show how health can be strengthened when the right supports are in place. WBRF's Population Health portfolio seeks to strengthen this effort by taking a "whole person" approach—investing in programs that recognize health is shaped not only by clinical care, but also by housing, safety, transportation and social support.

The 2023–2024 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) for Sinai Hospital and Grace Medical Center affirmed what residents already know: that challenges such as chronic health conditions, unstable housing, limited amenities and safety concerns are deeply interconnected and the product of long-standing inequities.

In FY 25, WBRF invested \$2.6 million across 21 organizations to advance strategies that strengthen community stability and promote well-being. These grants supported:

- Legal services and homeownership readiness programs
- Community and commercial development staffing
- Financial literacy and tax preparation services
- Violence response and interruption programming
- Case management and reentry services
- Health outreach and education initiatives
- Home and safety improvements for seniors
- Mental health and trauma support resources

Together, these investments not only deliver critical services but also chip away at the systemic barriers that contribute to poor health outcomes.

By building stronger networks of care and opportunity, WBRF and its partners are helping create the conditions for healthier, safer and more robust neighborhoods in West Baltimore.



Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service (MVLS) provides free, community-based legal services that help West Baltimore residents resolve issues that threaten their stability and well-being. Over the past two years as a WBRF grantee, MVLS has assisted nearly 6,000 residents, addressing legal needs in housing, family law, consumer protection, estate planning, criminal record relief and tax controversy. Their work has helped families avoid tax sale and foreclosure, clear records to improve employment opportunities, preserve generational wealth through estate planning, and navigate family disputes.

MVLS's success is rooted in neighborhood-level outreach. Staff and volunteer attorneys attended 176 community events and closed more than 1,300 legal cases in West Baltimore zip codes. By partnering with local organizations such as Paul's Place, Druid Hill YMCA and No Boundaries Coalition, MVLS ensures services are accessible and responsive to community needs. They host neighborhood legal clinics, distribute user-friendly fact sheets and share educational videos through social media to make complex legal topics easy to understand.

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LOVE & CORNBREAD

Love & Cornbread is uplifting West Baltimore elders through its Golden Gatherings, a monthly lunch and wellness series that began at Simmons Baptist Church and now convenes at the Sandtown Winchester Senior Center. Each gathering features chef-prepared meals, interactive icebreakers and accessible movement classes such as yoga and tai chi. Designed to reduce social isolation and promote senior health, the program has quickly become a popular stop for neighborhood elders. In addition, weekly collaborations with CUTS and LifeBridge Health bring healthy meals and a sense of community to Tuesday blood pressure screening events.

The organization is also investing in the next generation through PowerUP!, a social enterprise that prepares nutritious, scratch-made meals for local after-school programs, as well as the sale of cornbread mix. This earned-income model strengthens organizational sustainability while directly supporting youth well-being. Executive Director Sue May and Kitchen Manager Jessica Clark are further advancing this work as participants in the

Innovation Works social entrepreneurship accelerator. Whether nourishing seniors, fueling youth or developing creative business models, Love & Cornbread continues to root its mission in West Baltimore—feeding both body and spirit.

As part of this portfolio, two capital grants to improve recreational and programming activities for youth were implemented. An award was made to Kaboom to support a new playground at Mary Ann Winterling Elementary School. In November 2024, over a hundred volunteers including WBRF and LifeBridge Health leadership along with nonprofit Kaboom and community partners Bon Secours Community Works installed a new 'tot lot' playground at Mary Ann Winterling Elementary School. Volunteers built playground equipment and structures, mixed concrete, painted and moved mulch to get the site ready. In addition, this past summer, the Poppleton Recreation Center opened through support of a WBRF capital grant made in FY 24 to help renovate the facility. Vacant for more than 30 years, local community development leader Southwest Partnership worked with public, private and faith-based institutions to raise funding for the redevelopment. A youth focused nonprofit, Southwest Sports and Fitness Alliance, is the lead tenant hosting after school and youth recreational programming just blocks from the Factory.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

With low high school graduation rates and high unemployment, fostering workforce opportunities for West Baltimore residents is a critical need. Citywide employment figures which appear strong can obscure the reality in West Baltimore, where labor force participation remains low and unemployment is well above average rates. In neighborhoods such as Sandtown-Winchester/Harlem Park, more than half of adults are not engaged in the workforce (BNIA, 2023), reflecting both structural and individual barriers and the need for stronger pathways to opportunity.

WBRF continues to focus workforce investments towards key employment sectors where there are career ladders, opportunities for individuals with a criminal background and other barriers to employment, and in areas where there are job growth opportunities. Because of the numerous barriers to employment that some individuals face, a key step in the employment pathway includes organizations that provide case management, transitional employment and reentry services. These organizations support direct job placement opportunities or can help individuals access sector based hard skill training services such as those in IT, construction, healthcare, culinary, etc. Overall, WBRF awarded 15 grants in FY 25 totaling \$1.4 million for workforce development programming. Over the past 5 years, WBRF investments have supported workforce services for over 1,900 individuals which have led to jobs for nearly 1,200 adults with job placement activities for recent cohort graduates still being placed. Two examples of these organizations are below:



Pass IT On is advancing IT workforce opportunities in West Baltimore through its Empowerment Fellowship Program (EFP). With WBRF support, the program recruited 98 potential fellows between November 2024 and April 2025, using a partnership-driven model that engaged residents



at community events and through local collaborations. To help participants succeed, Pass IT On connects fellows to wraparound supports—including transportation assistance, stipends and access to technology—through its SNAP Employment & Training partnership. Program innovations also include career coaching from JumpStart2Tech, a social enterprise launched by a program graduate, and hands-on cybersecurity training led by a local attorney. Fellows recently conducted a real-world cybersecurity audit for a business partner, gaining valuable experience in a high-demand sector.



Turnaround Tuesday is a grassroots workforce development initiative that meets weekly across multiple neighborhoods to equip participants—many of whom are returning citizens—with job readiness skills and renewed confidence. Through weekly gatherings that blend practical training with mentoring, Turnaround Tuesday has built a movement of second chances, helping people see their value, rebuild stability, and step into new opportunities. Since its founding, Turnaround Tuesday has facilitated over 2,300 job placements in collaboration with local employers and partners throughout the Baltimore region. The consistency of its weekly programming not only helps participants secure meaningful employment, but also builds lasting pathways to financial independence and community connection.

FOOD ACCESS



Food insecurity in West Baltimore continues to be one of the most urgent needs flagged by residents and the 2024 CHNA (Community Health Needs Assessment). Grantees are increasingly pairing food distribution with health, case management and workforce strategies to create deeper and longer-lasting impact.

One example of this approach is Access Art, WBRF's newest food access grantee. Recognizing that food alone is not enough, Access Art combines weekly food distribution with the work of a community health worker who provides case management and connects families to critical resources. This strategy has reached a diverse population, with a large portion of participants identifying as Spanish-speaking and ensures that healthy food is a gateway to broader services that improve health and stability. Other partners—including the Food Project, Intersection of Change and 4MyCity—tie food programs to youth leadership

and job training, multiplying the long-term impact. These strategies have yielded over 6.7 million pounds of produce and 3.8 million meals for the community over the past 5 years. Total food investments in FY 25 made by WBRF reached \$390,000 and are structured alongside additional funds under the linked workforce and youth strategies. In addition, grantees made 67,000 direct food deliveries to individual's homes, and over 692,869 individuals visited for food assistance. Cumulatively, these strategies have brought millions of pounds of fresh food and meals into the community with a continuous focus on building models that address food insecurity at its roots.

Together, these investments represent an intentional food strategy: moving from emergency food distribution toward integrated, community-driven approaches that connect healthy food to health, workforce, and stability outcomes.

ADDITIONAL GRANTS & STRATEGIES

SMALL NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS

Each year, the WBRF sets aside funding to support small grants of up to \$2,500 for events based in neighborhoods near Grace Medical Center and the Factory that build community. These grants are intended to support programming and activities by organizations that support the community. In FY 25, eight grants totaling \$20,000, supported programming such as music in the park, holiday gifts for youth, back to school events, community festivals and 5K races.

ADDITIONAL STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES

SENIOR HEALTH AND ADDICTION STRATEGY

LeadingAge Maryland, Grace Medical Center and Civic Works began work in spring 2025 to launch the comprehensive EQUIP (Energize, Quality of Life, Uplift, Integrate and Promote) strategy to improve health and address addiction issues in senior buildings in West Baltimore. The effort comes as part of WBRF's response to the Baltimore Banner series highlighting the overdose rates and lack of solutions in senior buildings. LeadingAge Maryland is providing direct training to property staff focused on harm reduction and overdose response. Grace Medical Center is leading engagement in the buildings around clinical health strategies providing linkages to addiction services through New Hope Treatment Center. Civic Works is providing resident engagement and programs to improve access to public benefits.

To date, the pilot strategy has focused core programming in four buildings. LeadingAge Maryland has also provided harm reduction training to staff in three additional buildings.

CAPACITY BUILDING

WBRF continues its partnership with Maryland Nonprofits to offer workshops, focused cohorts and consultant services to grow the strength of WBRF grantees. This ongoing strategy includes

twelve workshops on key topics of interest. This past summer, they launched a 6-month cohort focused on building the capacity of 10 nonprofit executive directors. Participants are matched with a coach to support them as they work through a key issue facing their organization.

OTHER KEY CAPACITY BUILDING STRATEGIES WBRF IS SUPPORTING INCLUDE:

UNITED WAY: Neighbors United University is a new community leadership program designed to fill a critical void in the city to train grassroots resident leaders. The program launched in 2024 with its first cohort of leaders from across the city engaged in eight months of in-person training on leadership, community organizing, advocacy, fundraising and more.

BLACK EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NETWORK

(Blk ED Network) strives to narrow the racial leadership gap of nonprofits by working specifically with black executive directors. They will be supporting 20 executive directors including 12 from West Baltimore over 10 months to provide a cohort of workshops covering topics specific to Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) led organizations.

INNOVATION WORKS

seeks to reduce Baltimore's neighborhood and racial wealth divide. They support leaders of social enterprises with the necessary resources and support they need to start, grow and scale their enterprises. They provide technical assistance, mentoring from industry leaders and access to a capital fund. WBRF is supporting Innovation Works Neighborhood Strategy which is focused in part on engaging and supporting emerging West Baltimore entrepreneurs and local communities including Southwest Baltimore to build sustainable neighborhood economies. They currently support over 45 organizations in West Baltimore.

LOOKING AHEAD

The past year represented a period of meaningful preparation and purposeful transition for the West Baltimore Renaissance Foundation. While much of our work has always focused on strengthening nonprofit partners and improving outcomes for residents, this year marked a pivotal shift as we prepared to open The Factory—an investment not only in bricks and mortar, but in the long-term capacity of West Baltimore organizations to serve their communities more effectively.

Throughout the year, WBRF continued to support grassroots and anchor nonprofits delivering critical services across youth development, workforce training, food access, health, and neighborhood stability. At the same time, staff and partners worked behind the scenes to transform a long-vacant building into a fully equipped opportunity

center. This dual focus—sustaining programs while building shared infrastructure—allowed WBRF to bridge its traditional grantmaking role with a more active, place-based model that centers collaboration, visibility, and access.

By the close of the fiscal year, The Factory was no longer just a construction project; it was a place ready to host the next generation of community-driven work. As we moved and the doors opened, the foundation laid during this year positioned WBRF and its partners to expand reach, strengthen partnerships, and bring more coordinated, responsive services to West Baltimore. The work ahead builds directly on the commitment, planning, and investment that defined this year—ensuring that The Factory becomes a lasting asset for the neighborhoods it was built to serve.



THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS

We are grateful to the public and philanthropic partners who have already stepped forward to help bring the next phase of The Factory to life. Early leadership support from the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC), the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, the Bunting Family Foundation, the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, and the France-Merrick Foundation has allowed us to move ahead on renovations

for the Safe Streets Suite. These investments are laying the foundation for construction training and a future teaching and production kitchen—two anchor initiatives that will connect workforce training, food-based entrepreneurship, and community health in powerful new ways. As momentum continues to build, WBRF is now fundraising to close the remaining gap needed to fully build out these spaces and continue to serve West Baltimore.



2025 AWARDS

FOOD ACCESS

Grantee Organization	Award Amount	Purpose
4MyCity	\$125,000	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.
Love and Cornbread	\$50,000	Love & Cornbread will build upon its existing programs to establish a new, monthly Senior Activity Night in Penn North, in partnership with Simmons Baptist Church and Penn North Plaza senior apartments. The program will feature bingo, karaoke, and similar group activities along with a delicious, healthy, scratch-made buffet prepared and served by Love & Cornbread staff and volunteers.
So What Else?	\$100,000	So What Else will provide food security for 18,500 West Baltimore residents and distribute 315,000 lbs of food. They will continue to develop efforts at the resource center in Carrolton Ridge to serve up to 1,000 families.
UEmpower of MD/ The Food Project	\$120,000	The Food project will employ and train local youth to prepare, package, and distribute 2,000+ meals per month to food-insecure individuals and families. They will distribute 38,644 lbs. of fresh produce monthly, ensuring access to healthy foods; Host bi-weekly pop-up markets; Serve 30,000+ nutritious meals and distribute 400,000 lbs. of fresh food annually to families in need.

MENTORING

Grantee Organization	Award Amount	Purpose
10:12 Sports	\$55,000	10:12 Sports Mentoring and Workforce Development Program matches 250+ participants with mentors, in a 6:1 ratio. Teens also participate in job readiness training, get assistance with obtaining documents needed for employment, and have opportunities for job placement or training with partner organizations, as well as internally.
Baltimore SquashWise	\$75,000	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 youth and more than 70% of their students reside in West Baltimore neighborhoods.
Bon Secours Community Works	\$75,000	Bon Secours Community Works will complete key aspects of phase I development of the Moon Garden, a community park on vacant lots at 2123-2145 W. Saratoga St., Baltimore. The park will feature an outdoor classroom for the elementary school one block away for lessons in various disciplines, performances, and enrichment activities. There will be hardscape paths unifying various zones of use, onsite storage, verdant landscaping to include a moon garden of variegated silver foliage and white blooming plants, mural, a robust shade structure, commercial grade furnishings, and a permanent water line.
Boys and Girls Clubs Metropolitan Baltimore	\$75,000	BGCMB will hire and onboard key staff members, specifically the Club Director and Education Manager (Club Manager). These positions will be the first hires for this Club and will play a critical role in ensuring its success. The Club Director will oversee all Club operations, including key community and program partnerships, while the Education Manager will be responsible for developing and managing BGCMB's core programs.
Boys Hope Girls Hope	\$25,000	Boys Hope Girls Hope provides children with a nurturing, family-like home in a residential neighborhood. They will also serve up to 32 children between the residential homes and the afterschool academy.

MENTORING

Grantee Organization	Award Amount	Purpose
Code in the Schools	\$70,000	Code in the Schools will 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.
Ed Reed Foundation	\$40,000	The ER Academy, through a youth wellness platform, provides resources for students through wellness kits, sports team sponsorships, Fitness Day activities, and bi-weekly summer wellbeing events.
Excellence & Ambition	\$50,000	Excellence & Ambition Inc. (E&A) will host 35 youth for the Youth Entrepreneurship Program (YEP) and Professionalism workshops for Baltimore City YouthWorks and Youth Build Community (YBC) participants. It will feature podcast and social media content production, mentorship and mindfulness in Sister and Brother Circles, and Community Leadership Engagement & Reproductive Health (CLE&R) Certification Trainings for those over age 16.
Harlem Lacrosse	\$44,000	The program develops leadership, self-advocacy, grit, and resilience in students, equipping them with skills for high school, college, and career readiness. Participants engage in activities that foster academic growth, emotional intelligence, and civic responsibility. Students participate in team-building activities, enrichment, fitness, and lacrosse training, with a focus on building skills for academic and personal success.
Higher Achievement	\$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 after school program.
I AM MENTality	\$70,000	I AM MENTality will serve 60 young men from West Baltimore across three primary sites providing 39 weeks of programming, with an emphasis on academic support, leadership development, and wellness. They will offer individual tutoring sessions to youth requiring additional academic assistance and collaborate with local businesses for internship opportunities, giving youth exposure to professional environments and hands-on work experience.

MENTORING

Grantee Organization	Award Amount	Purpose
Let's Thrive Baltimore	\$80,000	The program engages 40 youth, aged 14–24, in structured, year-round activities to address systemic barriers such as poverty, violence, and lack of educational and workforce opportunities in West Baltimore Zip Codes 21217, 21223, 21216, 21215, and 21229. The program operates 160 days per year and combines mentorship, skill-building, and community revitalization initiatives. Sessions are held four days per week, with additional intensive engagement for out-of-school and unemployed youth five to six days per week.
Little Flowers Early Childhood and Development Center	\$75,000	The GRASP Summer Program is a dynamic 9-week, full-day camp designed to offer 120 participants a well-rounded, enriching experience. Running 7 hours a day, 5 days a week, the program combines academics, cultural enrichment, and fun summer activities. Academics will be seamlessly integrated with cultural enrichment activities to help mitigate summer learning loss.
Mentoring Male Teens in the Hood	\$30,000	MMTH will offer tutoring sessions three times weekly, group educational sessions on the first Saturday of the month; meetings and inspirational discussions with leaders of all ethnicities and occupations on the third Saturday of the month and exposure and field trips to vocational opportunities.
Mindful Mentors	\$31,000	Mindful Mentors is a comprehensive program that focuses on Grades 3rd-8th. Student-athletes in grades 9th-12th also engage in the curriculum which offers a fun and interactive curriculum that incorporates social emotional activities and character education. Students also complete STEM, Math, and Literacy activities everyday. They will work with 40 student athletes.
ParentChild+	\$25,000	ParentChild+, in partnership with New Song Community Learning Center will support 45 families with early childhood learning strategies. Programming will be based in the Sandtown-Winchester neighborhood of West Baltimore and focus on families with children ages 0 to 4. Programming will support approximately 30 families through home visiting and 15 families through relationships with child care providers (3 providers working with 5 families each).

MENTORING

Grantee Organization	Award Amount	Purpose
Parks and People Foundation	\$100,000	Parks and People will provide youth mentoring and programming and support the development of 7 parks; engage 85 Branches interns in college and career preparedness, social emotional learning, and financial literacy sessions; and enhance and reinforce reading.
Requity	\$25,000	Requity connects Baltimore high-schoolers with mentorship and work-based learning opportunities that position them to pursue careers in high-performance construction and related fields. Guided by dedicated teachers and industry professionals, they are renovating a vacant home according to passive building principles, revitalizing a low-income neighborhood, and delivering locally sourced meals to residents.
St. Luke's Youth Center	\$100,000	SLYC is a collaborative of West Baltimore families working together to provide youth with critical resources, life-enriching experiences, and a safety-net of support. SLYC After School Club provides tuition-free social-emotional learning, academic interventions, enrichment, and leadership development to children of all ages in West Baltimore. Programming will serve 81 youth participants and 37 families.
Unlimited Potential	\$20,000	Unlimited Potential offers the Fast Track Initiative. It is a dynamic after-school program designed to foster entrepreneurship, creative thinking, and leadership for 25 3rd-5th grade students. Through hands-on learning, mentorship, and real-world applications, students gain essential financial literacy and business development skills.
Urban Alliance	\$125,000	Urban Alliance's Baltimore High School Internship Program (HSIP) is an evidence-based, year-round initiative targeting high school seniors and recent graduates that combines over 100 cumulative hours of hard and soft skill training with paid work experiences, mentoring, and case management from a dedicated UA Internship Program Lead. Funding will help connect high school seniors in West Baltimore to equitable careers across high growth and established industries through paid work experiences, mentorship, and professional development.

MENTORING

Grantee Organization	Award Amount	Purpose
Wide Angle Youth Media	\$125,000	Through its core long-term programs, Wide Angle offers creative youth development workshops designed to nurture young artists while addressing disparities in educational outcomes, access to technology, and workforce readiness throughout the city including West Baltimore. Over the course of the year, more than 250 youth ages 10-24 will engage in Wide Angle's programs, including Baltimore Speaks Out, High School, MediaWorks, and Apprenticeships/Internships.
Wombwork Productions	\$90,000	Through the Nu World, Nu Generation, and Next Generation Art Ensembles, Wombwork Productions will create original performances that reflect local stories, followed by community talk-backs to foster intergenerational dialogue. By engaging over 2,000 youth and families through performances, workshops, and school residencies, they aim to work with 250 youth.

POPULATION HEALTH

Grantee Organization	Award Amount	Purpose
Access Art	\$60,000	This grant will provide support for the Morrell Park Health Market and to re-hire the bilingual Community Health Worker who will work with up to 50 individuals providing case management services. The market provides approximately 125 families/week with fresh produce, fruit and vegetables, canned goods, bread items, and other household supplies and toiletries. The markets is coordinated by Access Art staff including a Community School Coordinator and Community Resource Manager.
Black Women Build	\$75,000	Black Women Build – Baltimore will provide intersectional services such as financial wellness and literacy education to establish first-time homebuyers, and financial planning and broad workshops to sustain homeowners in their program. Programming support would be linked to BWBB ongoing efforts to rehabilitate rowhouses in West and Southwest Baltimore. The organization turns vacant buildings into affordable well-restored houses as they invest in the wealth and well-being of individuals and families. They will provide classes for approximately 50 individuals as well as well community outreach, and continued support and services for existing homeowners and neighbors.
BLK ED Network	\$25,000	The BLK ED Network's Executive Director will oversee implementation of BLK Leadership Accelerator, a ten-month cohort the program designed to build individual and organizational capacity while also countering systemic issues. This will include recruitment and enrollment of 20 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.
Center for Hope / Baltimore Child Abuse Center	\$195,000	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

Grantee Organization	Award Amount	Purpose
Civic Works	\$167,204	Civic Works will provide critical application assistance and educational services to older adults in Baltimore, helping them access essential resources that are often difficult to navigate. An Outreach and Education Coordinator will play a pivotal role in coordinating and delivering these services at senior housing facilities across West Baltimore. The program, working in conjunction with LeadingAge Maryland and Grace Medical Center, will address increasing concerns around opioid use among seniors while also providing support in areas such as medication management, long-term planning, personal and financial assistance, and overall health and wellness.
Clay Pots	\$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	\$310,000	The CUTS Healthy Hearts Community to Care Cardiovascular Disease Prevention Initiative will serve as the foundation for a collaborative cardiovascular disease (CVD) education and outreach strategy with LifeBridge Health's Community Health & Wellness Ambulatory Services team.
Digital Harbor Foundation– Project Waves	\$211,106	Waves, a division of the Digital Harbor Foundation, will deploy fiber-optic internet service to 249 households in three low-income apartment properties in West Baltimore (zip codes 21223, 21216, and 21229). This project will utilize existing coaxial cabling to provide free, secure broadband and technical support for residents and visitors for at least five years.
Grace Medical Center	\$118,515	Grace Medical Center and New Hope Clinic will address the needs of residents in Southwest Baltimore through increased health engagement activities, subject matter experts and targeted health education programs and services in senior buildings. Working with Leading Age Maryland and Civic Works, they will also address substance use disorder disparities in this community by providing peer recovery specialists and behavioral health provider at the point of care. Needle exchange, Narcan distribution

Continued on following page ►

POPULATION HEALTH

Grantee Organization	Award Amount	Purpose
		and treatment will be provided to Individuals identified through Screening Brief intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) at community centers, health fairs, churches and places where people gather. Persons needing mental health services will be referred to Grace's Behavioral Health program and other mental health treatment programs.
LeadingAge Maryland	\$267,472	LeadingAge Maryland proposes to develop, implement, and evaluate an education and support program to equip staff and residents of affordable senior housing communities in Baltimore City with information and resources to address opioid use in a trauma-informed, evidenced based way. LeadingAge will provide project management, training, coordination, evaluation and a sustainability plan. In year one, the project in partnership with Grace and Civic Works would be piloted in four senior housing communities, revised through evaluation, and then pilot in additional four housing communities in year two to create a comprehensive model that can be replicated across Baltimore city.
Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service	\$90,000 over 2 Years	MVLS will provide free legal services, community education and outreach in West Baltimore. They will provide outreach and will attend 100 West Baltimore Community Events, engage 2000 individuals, close 1200 cases and devote 8300 of attorney time.
Neighborhood Housing Services of Baltimore	\$140,000	NHS will assist 220 households to improve their financial outlook and/or attain or retain affordable homeownership through renter outreach, homeownership counseling, financial coaching, home repair, acquisition and renovation of vacant houses, and economic development. A portion of the costs will be used for outreach/marketing and community engagement events.
No Struggle No Success	\$75,000	NSNS delivers direct programming planning and implementation of re-entry services and resources for pre-release and post-release within the state of Maryland. They maintain advisory and case management services for 220 individuals, about 40 at a time. Approximately 100 clients will be from West Baltimore.
Open Works	\$50,000	Open Works is the largest makerspace in Maryland, but only serve a fraction of those that could benefit from their services. Open Works will provide capacity-building support to develop and implement community programming, including feedback on architectural and program designs, at a new satellite space on the campus of Coppin State University.

POPULATION HEALTH

Grantee Organization	Award Amount	Purpose
Parity Baltimore	\$75,000	Parity Baltimore aims to address hyper-vacancy, disinvestment, and the socio-economic divide in historically redlined neighborhoods in the 21223 zip code within West Baltimore by transforming abandoned buildings into affordable homeownership opportunities by the block.
Rebuilding Together Baltimore	\$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.
Southwest Partnership	\$115,000	This grant will support the Commercial Development Program Manager, who would be responsible for advancing the SWP's commercial development strategy including managing business relationships, advancing strategic capital projects and working with anchor partners to identify commercial opportunities based on the needs of their employees and other associates. Work would also include implementing key action items from the Retail Study funded in part by the WBRF and working to facilitate new retail opportunities to meet local community needs.
St Vincent de Paul / Sarah's Hope	\$75,000	St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore will provide a Resource and Education (R&E) Coordinator at Sarah's Hope family shelter, which provides 24-hour services for families experiencing homelessness in Baltimore City. The position develops mental health and support groups, provides education on financial literacy and housing readiness, and works with partner agencies and volunteers to coordinate other resources for families.
The Y of Central Maryland	\$150,000	To intentionally address health inequities in the Upton/Druid Hill community, the Y will continue a health outreach initiative that will focus on leveraging Community Health Workers (CHWs) to provide health education, awareness, and referral to additional health resources. Growing from their first year of work, the Y will expand access to healthy food, insurance, harm reduction services, and SNAP benefits. Key initiatives include operating the Fresh Mart stocked with nutritious food, providing Narcan training, and facilitating SNAP enrollment.

POPULATION HEALTH

Grantee Organization	Award Amount	Purpose
United Way of Central Maryland	\$22,110	Neighbors United University (NUU) is a new community leadership program developed and led by United Way of Central Maryland. The program was designed to fill a critical void in the city for training for grassroots resident leaders. The program will launch this fall with its first cohort of 25-30 leaders from across the city. Participants will engage in eight months of in-person training on leadership, community organizing, advocacy, fundraising, and more.
University of Maryland Baltimore – Community Engagement Center	\$63,000	The University of Maryland, Baltimore Community Engagement Center and the CASH Campaign of Maryland will provide a comprehensive package of services to 1,200 West Baltimore residents including financial education, coaching, free tax preparation, and benefits screening to help families increase their financial stability.

WORKFORCE

Grantee Organization	Award Amount	Purpose
B&O Railroad	\$75,000	This program marries skilled trades instruction with critical wrap-around services while providing students an opportunity to apply their work on the Museum's 40-acre campus. Students will be paid a living-wage of \$15 an hour while in the program for 40 hours a week for six months and have the opportunity for applied work in restoration/construction trades, facilities maintenance, or rail operations. The program will recruit 6-12 students.
Baltimore Alliance for Careers in Healthcare	\$55,000	BACH will be supporting Baltimore residents with the training they need to break into the healthcare field or, for those working within the field, move up the career ladder. Bach indicates that 64 individuals will be from West Baltimore, 80% will complete training, 78% will get a credential, and 75% will gain employment within 100 days.
BioTechnical Institute of Maryland	\$85,000	BTI will support 15 West Baltimore City residents who will be enrolled in programming including the BioStart and Lab Associates programs. Participants completing the program will have the ability to create new opportunities for their children and families, breaking generational barriers and the poverty cycle.
Center for Urban Families	\$125,000	CFUF's ALL In case management efforts will help their members to create personally identified goals related to self-sufficiency, build the plans necessary to achieve those goals, and connect to the resources and supports for removing barriers to success. 270 West Baltimore members will receive 638 hours of in-depth, one-on-one mobility coaching, 83 will enroll in STRIVE® with 53 successfully graduating, and 38 will enroll in Baltimore Responsible Fatherhood Services. 31 members from West Baltimore will receive initial job placement support and 12 will receive additional placement services.
Dwyer Workforce Development	\$100,000	Dwyer Workforce Development provides Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and Geriatric Nursing Assistant (GNA) training, including certification assistance, followed by job placement and ongoing career ladder support. Through this effort, Dwyer will upskill at least 25 Scholars from targeted WBRF zip codes while providing individualized case management services.

WORKFORCE

Grantee Organization	Award Amount	Purpose
Faith and Work Enterprises	\$70,000	Faith and Work Enterprises will offer 150 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.
Friendly Loving Opportunities	\$100,000	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.
Innovation Works	\$95,000	IW 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, formalize partnerships with lead organizations in key neighborhoods, and develop/pilot neighborhood-specific offerings that drive social entrepreneurs' (SEs) commitment to W/SW Baltimore. They will support over 70 West Baltimore social enterprises with 35 serving located in wbrf zip codes.
Intersection of Change	\$50,000	Strength to Love II (S2L2) is an urban farm, providing workforce development and serving citizens returning to the community from incarceration. The farm entails 14 greenhouses totaling 1.5 acres, addresses community food apartheid issues, and offers employment to community residents. This grant will support the harvesting of over 7500 pounds of fresh produce, hire and train 2 farm staff, increase food partnerships with 3 to 5 community organizations, expand CSA membership and enhance workforce development programming.
Npower	\$75,000	NPower's no-cost IT training, professional development, and wrap-around social services with community partners help individuals become career ready entry-level tech professionals in 27 weeks. This program trains 180 annually of which 27 will come from West Baltimore neighborhoods. More than 400 NPower MD alumni who have been placed in jobs through this program.

WORKFORCE

Grantee Organization	Award Amount	Purpose
Pass IT On	\$50,000	The Empowerment Fellowship Program provides technologists with the opportunity to receive no-cost instruction in Information Technology and Cybersecurity. 30 West Baltimore participants will be led through a rigorous, 40-week training program focused on developing them from Novice practitioners to IT experts with various certifications.
Paul's Place	\$85,000	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. Expecting 45 graduates.
Per Scholas	\$75,000	Per Scholas Baltimore will enroll 170 Baltimore area learners, offering in-demand, technical training in IT Support. They aim to increase enrollment of West Baltimore residents to 40, improve job placement rates to 70%, and graduate 75% of learners from the tech training programs. Provide comprehensive support services, technical skills, and industry-recognized certifications to ensure job readiness.
Turnaround Tuesday	\$85,000	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. Programming will support 350 job placements' including 125 from West Baltimore with a 75% retention rate.
VSP – Sinai	\$250,000	Partnering with Civic Works, and other established local community workforce development partners, VSP proposes to provide 40 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.

SMALL NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS

Grantee Organization	Award Amount	Purpose
Fayette Street Outreach	\$2,500	FSO will host their annual holiday gift event for youth in the community. They will provide toys and hats to 250 children.
Franklin Square Community Association	\$2,500	The Association will be hosting five music and community building events in Franklin Square Park.
Greater Harvest Family Life Center	\$2,500	Greater Harvest Family Life Center will be hosting a back to school event and is expected to serve over 300 youth and families.
Nehemiah Central Community Development Corporation	\$2,500	Purchasing and distributing holiday gifts, hats, gloves and toys for 100 needy children during the Christmas holiday.
Pigtown Main Street	\$2,500	Pigtown will host its annual Pigtown Festival. 6,000-8,000 people are expected. WBRF funds will support the kids zone.
Southwest Partnership / Hollins Roundhouse	\$2,500	This community small grant will support the volunteer-led arts and music festival for residents of zip codes 21201, 21223. The event will provide resources from community organizations for 800+ community members.
Southwest Sports and Fitness Alliance	\$2,500	SSFA will help coordinate the The Sowebo Landmark 5K that highlights local landmarks and brings together neighbors, families, and local resources to promote active, healthy communities. The event will engage 400-500 participants in a fitness-focused activity while offering free participation for youth.
Union Square Association	\$2,500	The Union Square Community Association will host 4 Corks and Conversations gatherings. Each event is hosted in a resident's home and features a speaker presentation, facilitated discussion, and informal time for neighbors to connect, fostering meaningful dialogue and civic engagement within the Union Square community.

West Baltimore Renaissance Foundation



WEST BALTIMORE
RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION