

GRANT MAKING FOR IMPACT



BCYF's grant-making strategy is intentionally designed to balance direct investment in programming with long-term organizational strengthening. The model allocates 75% of funds toward direct grants and 25% toward capacity building, ensuring that organizations are supported not only to run high-quality programs but also to build internal structures that will allow them to thrive sustainably. This balanced approach recognizes that program excellence and organizational health are deeply interconnected.

- The Grassroots Fund, offering flexible, accessible funding for small and emerging organizations (\$250,000 per year for 5-years).
- The Community Accountable Fund, designed to uplift organizations rooted in neighborhood-based leadership and community priorities (\$225,000 per year for 3-years).
- The Aligned Grantmaking Fund, leveraging partnerships to increase resources available for youth.
- The President's Fund, enabling strategic, timely investments that address emerging opportunities or urgent needs.



Pre-Application Technical Assistance: Expanding Access and Removing Barriers

- 253 grant applicants supported
- 125 organizations attended sessions
- A four-month Technical Assistance window offering:
 - One-on-one coaching
 - Small group sessions
 - Large workshops
 - In-person and virtual options



Community-Led Decision Making: Centering Youth Voice and Community Wisdom

BCYF's funding decisions are driven by the community, not by detached institutions or external evaluators. Grant application reviews are conducted by community members, ensuring that decisions reflect real needs, lived experience, and local priorities.

Expanding Opportunities While Serving More Than 17,000 Youth Across Baltimore: A Citywide Commitment to Youth Access

The types of programs funded reflect BCYF's belief that young people thrive when given access to holistic, creative, and developmentally supportive experiences:

- Sports & Athletics, strengthening health, teamwork, and confidence.
- The Arts, nurturing creativity, culture, and self-expression.
- STEM & Workforce Development, preparing youth for dynamic, future-ready career pathways.
- Mentoring & Leadership, providing guidance, connection, and opportunities to lead.
- Mental Health & Wellness, helping youth build resilience and emotional well-being.

Capacity Building: *the learning lab*: A Breakthrough in Capacity Building

- 700+ participants have engaged in capacity-building learning.
- Over 100 hours of professional development have been offered.
- Training topics support long-term sustainability, including:
 - Nonprofit infrastructure development
 - Financial management and grant writing
 - Marketing, communications, and board leadership
 - Youth development best practices

Community Engagement: A Growing Presence Across Baltimore

Please join us at our next event! Information may be found at www.bcyfund.org.



Looking Ahead: The Youth Master Plan and Baltimore's Future

BCYF's next bold initiative is the development of a Youth Master Plan, a comprehensive, community-centered roadmap for youth opportunity in Baltimore. This plan will be:

- Data-informed
- Grounded in youth voice
- Rooted in equity
- Designed to coordinate citywide resources and systems
- Developed with community stakeholders across sectors

The Youth Master Plan will represent a historic opportunity to align vision, investment, and strategy—ensuring that Baltimore's youth development ecosystem continues to grow stronger, more equitable, and more interconnected.

Please consider supporting our effort by making a gift to help shape a more just, creative, and abundant future for Baltimore's youth.

Donate Today!

