



BALTIMORE CITY
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Catalyst Grants Program Round 4 Information Session March 6, 2024

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AGENDA

- WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
- OVERVIEW OF [CCG PROGRAM](#)
- IMPORTANT DATES
- [OPERATING GRANTS](#) OVERVIEW
- [CAPITAL GRANTS](#) OVERVIEW
- THRESHOLD CRITERIA
- APPLICATION SCORING
- DEMONSTRATION OF ONLINE APPLICATION
- QUESTIONS

If you have questions during the presentation, please type them in the chat and they will be addressed during the Q&A portion.

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW



“Active” is defined as previously awarded CCG grant that has **FUNDS REMAINING** and/or have **not submitted final reporting** requirements. Active CCG grants impact your Round 4 eligibility.

If all funds have been spent and reporting is complete on previous CCG awards, it is considered **“Closed”** and does not impact your Round 4 eligibility.

- Within Round 4, DHCD will be making up to \$2 million available for the Community Catalyst Grants program.
 - Up to **\$500,000 in Operating Grants** in the format of ten (10) Fifty Thousand Dollar (\$50,000.00) Operating Awards
 - Up to **\$1.5 million in Capital Grants**
- Funds will be offered together through **two separate applications**.
 - Applicants may apply for an Operating Grant, a Capital Grant or both at the same time through the [Neighborly portal](#).
 - Applicants with two (2) active existing OPERATING Community Catalyst Grant awards are not eligible to apply for Operating Funding in Round 4.
 - Applicants with two (2) active existing CAPITAL Community Catalyst Grant awards are not eligible to apply for Capital Funding in Round 4.

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW



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COMMUNITY CATALYST GRANTS 5

Community Catalyst Grants are intended to:

- **Value neighborhoods.** Support community-based efforts that support residents as they take the lead in their communities' redevelopment plans and projects.
- **Promote equity and community development in long-disinvested neighborhoods.** Funding emerging and established organizations in historically disinvested neighborhoods provides critical financial support to community-based initiatives that need it most.
- **Be flexible.** Applicants will identify their priorities for funds.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW



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COMMUNITY CATALYST GRANTS 6

Community Catalyst Grants focus:

- On organizations that work primarily in historically disinvested communities
- On programs that demonstrate a commitment to improving the quality of life for low-income, minority residents
- Where there is a demonstrated need for increased capacity
- On projects in Baltimore City DHCD Impact Investment Areas or projects whose work aligns with an initiative in the Community Development Framework

EMERGING VS ESTABLISHED DEFINITIONS



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Emerging and Established Organization Definitions

Applicants will self-select whether they qualify as an "Emerging" or "Established" organization and must submit a narrative justification of their selection." DHCD reserves the right to modify an applicant's self-identified classification during Threshold Review. For the purposes of Community Catalyst Grants, "Emerging" or "Established" organizations are defined by following criteria:

- **EMERGING ORGANIZATIONS:** Organizations headquartered in, or whose work is centered in, communities that have historically been under-funded, may not have established revenue sources and may lack access to capital are, for the purposes of the Community Catalyst Grants, considered to be **"Emerging."** This can include nonprofit groups that have a long-term presence in neighborhoods, groups that are active but may not have a 501(c)(3) status, groups that are interested in starting a new initiative, or groups collaborating to achieve larger goals. In some instances, Emerging organizations are raising funding, but, due to the challenging nature of their projects, find themselves with funding gaps.
- **ESTABLISHED ORGANIZATIONS:** Organizations that work in neighborhoods and communities where ongoing investment has resulted in demonstrated market changes and improvements, have consistent funding sources, professionalized boards, and access to resources are, for the purposes of the Community Catalyst Grants, considered to be **"Established."**

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IMPORTANT DATES



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DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO DHCD.CCG@BALTIMORECITY.GOV
MARCH 15, 2024 AT 5 P.M.

RESPONSES TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS POSTED
MARCH 22, 2024

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR ONLINE APPLICATIONS
APRIL 12, 2024 AT 5 P.M. EST
No Late Applications Accepted

ANTICIPATED NOTIFICATION OF AWARDS
JUNE/ JULY 2024

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OPERATING GRANTS OVERVIEW

Goals of CCG Operating Grants:

- Support efforts to stabilize and improve housing market conditions
- Create and/or formalize organizations
- Expand programs to increase capacity through increased staff, technical, and financial assistance
- Community ownership of a project
- Strengthen the community's understanding of and ability to participate in development initiatives
- Undertake a deferred project
- Increase economic opportunities and prosperity for all stakeholders
- Foster partnerships and collaboration

OPERATING GRANTS OVERVIEW



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Operating Grant Award

- DHCD is making up to Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) in Operating funding available in the format of **ten (10) Fifty Thousand Dollar (\$50,000.00) Operating Awards**
- All funds must be spent within a **12-month period** from the date of executing a Grant Agreement with DHCD.
- All available funds will be awarded to **Emerging organizations**.
- Applicants with two (2) active existing OPERATING Community Catalyst Grant awards are not eligible to apply for Operating Funding in Round 4.

OPERATING GRANTS OVERVIEW

Eligible Uses of Operating Grant Funds

- Community Organizing
- Consultants to assist with such activities as operations, accounting, fundraising, program development, and information technology
- Professional Services
- Staff to help start a new program or expand an existing program
- Strategic planning
- Equipment

OPERATING GRANTS OVERVIEW

Ineligible Uses of Operating Grant Funds

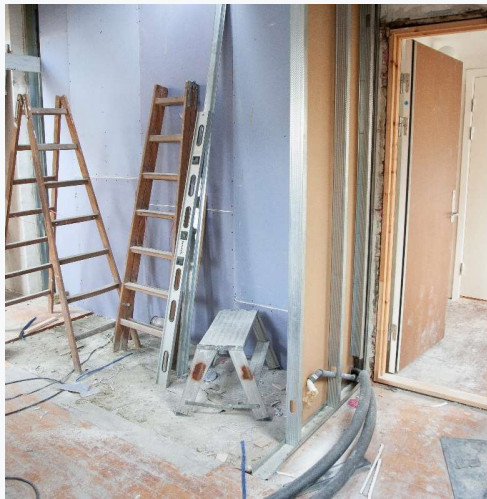
- Currently funded or duplication of existing programs including but not limited to:
 - Baltimore Children and Youth Fund
 - Creative Baltimore Fund, Community Arts Grants
 - Lots Alive
 - Neighborhood Event Grants
 - Baltimore Main Streets programs
 - Community Land Trusts or other programs and/or projects eligible for funding through the Affordable Housing Trust Fund
 - South Baltimore Gateway Partnership Community Grants
 - SB7 Community Enhancement Grants
- Charter schools
- Endowments
- Fundraising campaigns
- Programs associated with a specific religious or other affiliation or that support political actions, causes, advocacy, or parties.

CAPITAL GRANTS OVERVIEW

Goals of CCG Capital Grants:

- Reduce blight in neighborhoods where blight removal will increase private market interest, create opportunities to attract new residents, support citywide planning initiatives, create a diversity of uses and enhance the quality of life for current residents
- Encourage innovative energy-efficient technology
- Support mixed-income housing
- Stabilize housing for current homeowners that are part of planning initiatives or a middle market neighborhoods strategy
- Strengthen the connection between health and housing
- Provide gap financing, loan guarantees, or other financing that moves a project forward
- Support projects that include community ownership and participatory decision making and benefit local and minority/women-owned business enterprises
- Fund projects that will increase wealth building in disinvested communities

CAPITAL GRANTS OVERVIEW



Capital Grant Award Amounts

- Projects cannot exceed \$4 million in total development costs for the entire project (all phases).
- Due to limited funds, the **maximum request for Capital funds** in your application **cannot exceed \$150,000**.
- All funds must be spent within a **24-month period** from the date of executing a Grant Agreement with DHCD.
- At least **55% of available funds will be awarded to Emerging organizations**.
- Not more than **45% of available funds will be awarded to Established organizations**.
- Applicants with two (2) active existing CAPITAL Community Catalyst Grant awards are not eligible to apply for Capital Funding in Round 4.

CAPITAL GRANTS OVERVIEW

Examples of Eligible Uses of Capital Grant Funds (not meant to be a comprehensive list)

- Pre-development costs including, but not limited to: studies, surveys, zoning changes and conceptual design and plans
- Subordinate Financing
- Carrying costs associated with a specific development initiative
- Consultants and staff necessary to implement a specific project
- Mixed-income housing with an emphasis on households who earn between 60-120% of the Area Median Income
- Acquisition of non-City owned properties, stabilization or construction that is part of a larger development or revitalization initiative provided that the funded activity occurs within 18 months of executing a Funding Agreement with DHCD
- New construction and/or substantial rehabilitation provided that the funded activity occurs within 18 months of executing a Funding Agreement with DHCD.
- Intervention strategies to address problem properties on otherwise stable blocks
- Preservation of existing affordable housing in communities where significant investment is planned
- Commercial tenant improvements to facilitate social distancing in commercial spaces
- Revolving Loan or Strategic Acquisition Fund
- Net Zero or other forms of environmentally sustainable construction
- Rehabilitation and repair projects for homeowners to stabilize their homes
- Projects that support environmental justice outcomes

CAPITAL GRANTS OVERVIEW

Examples of Ineligible Uses of Capital Grant Funds

- Acquisition of city-owned properties or payment of city liens
- Acquisition of properties through the Receivership process
- Relocation
- General Operating Support
- Repayment of existing loans or liens
- Development or expansion of liquor, adult entertainment, night clubs, and other uses as determined by DHCD
- Community Gardens or Urban Agriculture
- Commercial Façade improvements
- Public Art
- Activities eligible for funding by the Affordable Housing Trust Fund as described in: <https://dhcd.baltimorecity.gov/nd/affordable-housing-trust-fund>
- Activities receiving funds through Baltimore Main Streets program
- Charter Schools
- Projects that support a specific religious affiliation, and/or that support political actions, causes, advocacy, or parties

THRESHOLD CRITERIA

Please make sure that your application file includes all required documentation outlined in the Operating and Capital Funding Guidelines.

FAILURE TO INCLUDE ALL REQUIRED INFORMATION
MAY RESULT IN YOUR APPLICATION
BEING INCOMPLETE AND DISQUALIFIED FOR CONSIDERATION.

All applicants must complete the electronic application and submit all applicable file attachments before the deadline.

THRESHOLD CRITERIA

Project Narratives (as applicable)

- Self-classification as EMERGING or ESTABLISHED organization
- Project Readiness (including CCG Operating Budget Template, Scope and Schedule).
- Project Impact.
- Community Engagement.
- Achieving Equity.
- Consideration of Bonus Points (optional).

Project Budget and Financing (as applicable)

Signed Certification and Authorization to Submit by all parties

*Copy of fiscal agents' policies and procedures (including requirement to provide quarterly expenditure reports to grantees)

*Letter of Intent signed by all parties, if the applicant is using a fiscal agent or if the application is a joint submission or supports a collaborative effort

THRESHOLD CRITERIA

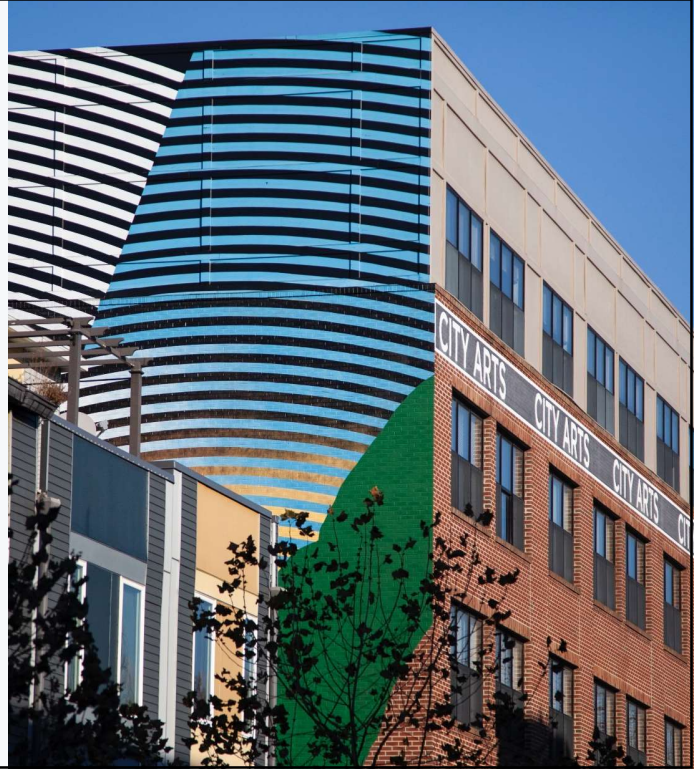
Financial Information

(All Financial Information items in the Guidelines must be included for both fiscal agent and all applicant parties if applicable)

Organizational Information

(All Organizational Information items in the Guidelines must be included for both fiscal agent and all applicant parties if applicable)

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APPLICATION SCORING ***NEW***

All applications that **meet Threshold Review Criteria** will receive a **Project Readiness score** and **Bonus Points assessment** from the CCG Program staff and will be advanced to a Review Panel for scoring of **Project Impact, Community Engagement and Achieving Equity narratives**.

Scoring Criteria	Points Available
Project Readiness	50
Project Impact	50
Community Engagement	50
Achieving Equity	50

200 Points

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APPLICATION SCORING

• Project Readiness (50 Maximum Points).

- This section enables DHCD to determine whether projects meeting threshold are ready to proceed and that the applicant has the experience, staff, and/or consultants in place to ensure a successful outcome.
- Applicants are asked to demonstrate that their projects are financially feasible, that the applicant has the capability of leveraging additional public and or private funds and that they have the capability to manage a team with sufficient experience to undertake and complete the proposed project. For Capital applications, this includes Site Control.
- As part of demonstrating a project’s feasibility, applicants are required to submit a budget utilizing the CCG Budget Template and a Scope and Schedule with their submissions. **Budgets submitted utilizing different formats will not be accepted.**
- The Project Readiness score will be determined based upon the categories below:
 - Applicant Capacity is 25 Points
 - Financial Feasibility is 25 Points

APPLICATION SCORING

• Project Impact (50 Maximum Points):

- DHCD is committed to ensuring that Community Catalyst projects reflect the priorities of the City's [Framework for Community Development](#) and guiding principles.

Project Vision and Summary. Please provide a detailed description of the proposed project including the vision, goals, and intended positive impacts on the City and its residents.	25 Points
City's Framework for Community Development. Please provide a detailed explanation of how your proposed project aligns with the DHCD Framework for Community Development in supporting City priorities.	25 Points

APPLICATION SCORING

• Community Engagement and Participation (50 Maximum Points):

- DHCD is committed to ensuring that Community Catalyst projects are consistent with and can leverage revitalization plans for the community where the project will be built and provide multiple opportunities for a range of stakeholders to provide input, regardless of their support.

Neighborhood participation in project ownership and control. Points will be awarded when neighborhood residents have a role in the ownership and/or control of: (a) the development project, (b) a development entity that must approve major project decisions and may acquire the property, and (c) an entity that provides ongoing stewardship of the development.	25 Points
Community Engagement Plan. Points will be awarded to projects that provide multiple opportunities for a range of stakeholders to provide meaningful input into the project.	25 Points

APPLICATION SCORING

• Achieving Equity (50 Maximum Points):

- DHCD is committed to using Community Catalyst funds to reduce the financial, social and economic disparities that have affected many of the City's neighborhoods and residents over the past several decades.

Equity in Geographic Areas. Recognizing the importance of equity to development in Baltimore City, points will be awarded to projects that will serve an area facing financial, social and/or economic disparities. Applicants should describe the demographics of the area(s) to be served and describe how their project will address equity gaps.	25 Points
Supports City Equity Priorities. Points will be awarded to projects that reflect City Priorities, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equitable methodology and processes. Build/stabilize neighborhood market conditions. Mixed-Income Housing including homeownership. Blight elimination and asset development. Crime reduction. Strengthening neighborhood retail and gateway corridors. City-sponsored planning initiatives, including but not limited to INSPIRE, Green Network Plan, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, COVID-19 support, DHCD, or BDC Revitalization area. 	25 Points

APPLICATION SCORING

• Bonus Points

- Applicants may choose to apply for up to 30 bonus points from any of the following categories and may be awarded full or partial points in any one category. Applicants should indicate which Bonus Points they wish to be considered for and provide a brief narrative explanation as to how their project qualifies.
 - Impact Investment Area Bonus (Up to 10 points).
 - Experienced Applicant Partner Bonus (Up to 5 points).
 - Supports & Grows Local Businesses or Community Spaces (Up to 5 points).
 - Takes Advantage of Apprenticeships and Training Programs (Up to 5 points).
 - Collaboration Across Multiple Neighborhoods (Up to 5 points).

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Online Application Portal
 Community Catalyst Grants
 Homeownership Incentives
 Housing Preservation Programs
 Housing Upgrades to Benefit Seniors (HUBS)

New users must first register their account before signing in to the portal

Sign In **Register**

Email Address

Password

Remember my email address

[Neighborhoodly Application Tutorial Video](#)

[Neighborhoodly How To Apply PDF Guide](#)



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QUESTION AND ANSWER

NOTE - WE CANNOT ANSWER PROJECT-SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

- TYPE QUESTIONS IN THE CHAT
- VIRTUALLY RAISE YOUR HAND TO ASK A QUESTION IN VIDEO CHAT
- SUBMIT WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO DHCD.CCG@BALTIMORECITY.GOV AFTER THE SESSION



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THANKS!

- SUBMIT WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO DHCD.CCG@BALTIMORECITY.GOV AFTER THE SESSION



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