Community Catalyst Grants
FY2020-2021 Round
Information Sessions – presented
Nov. 12 and 16, 2020

AGENDA

- **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**
- **OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM**
- **IMPORTANT DATES**
- **OPERATING GRANTS OVERVIEW**
- **CAPITAL GRANTS OVERVIEW**
- **THRESHOLD CRITERIA**
- **SCORING**
- **DEMONSTRATION OF ONLINE APPLICATION**
- **QUESTIONS**

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

In FY21, DHCD will be making up to $7.2 million available for the Community Catalyst Grants program.

- Up to $3 million in Operating Grants
  - Preset grant award amounts
- Up to $4.2 million in Capital Grants

Funds will be offered together through one combined application.

- Applicants may apply for an Operating Grant, a Capital Grant, or both on the same application
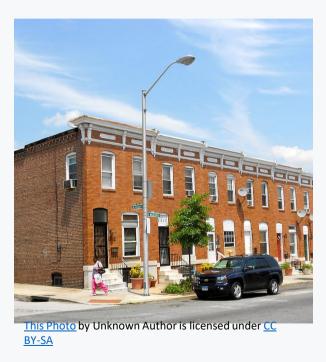
PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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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 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

IMPORTANT DATES

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DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO DHCD.CCG@BALTIMORECITY.GOV
NOVEMBER 20 AT 5 P.M.

RESPONSES TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS POSTED
NOVEMBER 30

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR ONLINE APPLICATIONS
DECEMBER 18, 2020 AT 5 P.M. EST
No Late Applications Accepted

ANTICIPATED NOTIFICATION OF AWARDS
FEBRUARY/MARCH 2021

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

Operating Grant Award Amounts

- Emerging applicants may request a grant amount of $75,000, $100,000, or $150,000.

- Established applicants may request an award amount of $75,000 or $100,000.

- All funds must be spent within a 24-month period from the date of executing a Grant Agreement with DHCD.

- At least 66% of available funds will be awarded to Emerging organizations.

- Not more than 33% of available funds will be awarded to Established organizations.

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

<u>Ineligible</u> 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).

- The maximum request for Capital funds in your application cannot exceed 40% of the project's total cost.

- 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.

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

> Funds can only be requested for projects involving more than 3 properties.*

- 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 <u>Ineligible</u> 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

- Projects involving fewer than three (3) properties unless waived (Please refer to Application for additional information)

- 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 of the following.
FAILURE TO INCLUDE THIS 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)
- Project Description
- Applicant Capacity
- Community Engagement
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Schedule
- Evaluation Process
- Construction Methodology, Sustainability, and Energy Efficiency (Capital Applications only)

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

Specific Documents Required for Operating and Capital Applications Only
Please refer to Guidelines and Application for comprehensive list.

APPLICATION SCORING

Operating Application Scoring (200 points possible)

- **PROJECT DESCRIPTION (40 points possible)**
  - 10 bonus points automatically awarded for Impact Investment Areas or that meet the Framework's Objectives
  - 5 bonus points automatically awarded for Established Organizations that partner with Emerging Organizations
- **APPLICANT CAPACITY (40 points possible)**
- **DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION (40 points possible)**
- **PROJECT BUDGET AND FINANCING (30 points possible)**
- **PROJECT SCHEDULE (20 points possible)**
- **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (20 points possible)**
- **PROJECT EVALUATION (10 points possible)**

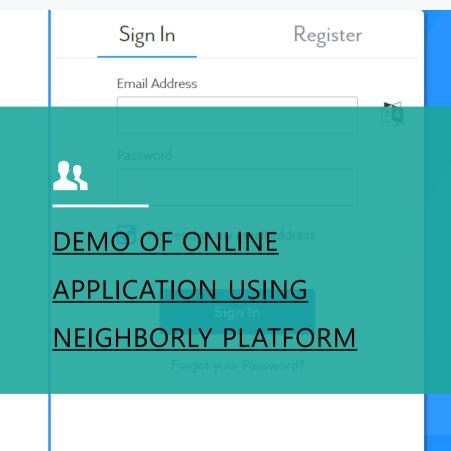## Capital Application Scoring (210 points possible)

- **PROJECT DESCRIPTION (40 points possible)**
  - 10 bonus points automatically awarded for Impact Investment Areas or that meet the Framework's Objectives
  - 5 bonus points automatically awarded for Established Organizations that partner with Emerging Organizations
- **APPLICANT CAPACITY (40 points possible)**
- **DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION (30 points possible)**
- **PROJECT BUDGET AND FINANCING (30 points possible)**
- **PROJECT SCHEDULE (30 points possible)**
- **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (20 points possible)**
- **PROJECT EVALUATION (10 points possible)**
- **CONSTRUCTION METHODOLOGY (10 points possible)**

BALTIMORE CITY
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

Sign In

Forgot your Password?

DEMO OF ONLINE APPLICATION USING NEIGHBORLY PLATFORM

BALTIMORE CITY

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

THANKS!

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

@BmoreDhcd