



— BALTIMORE CITY —
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Catalyst Grants Program

Round 6 – Operating

Information Session

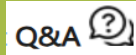
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March 2026

AGENDA

- WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
- OVERVIEW OF [CCG OPERATING GRANTS](#) PROGRAM
 - Important Dates
 - Eligible Applicants and Emerging vs. Established Orgs
 - Award Terms
 - Eligible and Ineligible Uses and Fee Guidelines
- APPLICATION PROCESS
 - How to Apply
 - Threshold Review
 - Required Documents
- APPLICATION SCORING CRITERIA
- NEIGHBORLY ASSISTANCE
- QUESTIONS

This presentation is being recorded. The recording and slide deck will be published to the [CCG Website](#) shortly for your reference.

Please type all questions in the Questions & Answers  section.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

In 2018, DHCD established the Community Catalyst Grants program (CCG) to provide support to assist organizations in historically disinvested communities.

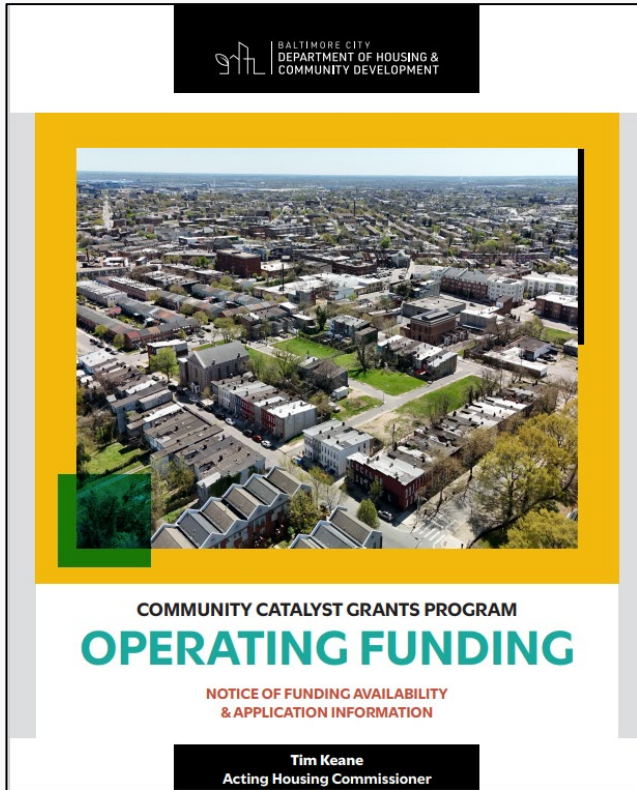
These communities are predominantly low-income, minority, have suffered disproportionately from low housing values, high rates of vacancy and abandonment, poverty, crime, and public health problems, and may have received less public and private investment than other communities.

Community Catalyst Grants are intended to:

- **Value neighborhoods.**
- **Promote equity and community development in long-disinvested neighborhoods.**
- **Be flexible.**



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Through this CCG Round 6 Notice of Funding Availability (the “NOFA”), the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development (“DHCD”) is making **up to One Million Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$1,020,000) in Operating funding available** for projects that are critical to locally-driven community revitalization projects

- **Who can apply?**
Nonprofits, CDCs, neighborhood groups, merchant associations, and others with 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(6) status or fiscal sponsorships and partnerships.
- **What kinds of projects are eligible?**
Staffing, Consultants, Professional Services, Community Organizing, Strategic Planning, Equipment, etc.
- **How much can we request?**
Emerging Organizations: \$120,000
Established Organizations: \$60,000

IMPORTANT DATES

Grant Application Available	March 23, 2026, at 8:00 AM ET
Information Sessions (offered virtually- link can be found on website)	March 30, 2026, at 1:00 PM ET March 31, 2026, at 5:30 PM ET
Deadline for Submission of Written Questions to DHCD	April 6, 2026, at 5:00 PM ET
<i>Note: No questions will be accepted or answered after the deadline</i>	
Responses to Written Questions Posted on DHCD'S Website	April 10, 2026
SUBMISSION DEADLINE	April 24, 2026, at 5:00 PM ET
Anticipated Notification of Awards	June/July 2026

APPLY ONLINE: <https://portal.neighborlysoftware.com/baltimoremd/Participant>

QUESTIONS? Email: dhcd.ccg@baltimorecity.gov

OPERATING GRANTS GOALS

- Support efforts to stabilize and improve housing market conditions, through a combination of organizational growth, technical and financial assistance, partnerships, and collaboration.
- Create and/or formalize organizations.
- Expand programs to increase capacity resulting in visible and quantifiable impacts 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.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Eligible applicants include community development corporations, umbrella organizations, neighborhood revitalization organizations, faith-based organizations, merchant associations and other **organizations that have a valid 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(6) status** or that have received a temporary determination from the IRS.
- **Organizations that do not have a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(6) status can apply through an eligible Partner Applicant or a Fiscal Agent.**
- Eligible applicants must provide proof of their business entity's status of good standing with the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT). DHCD reserves the right to require organizations with annual operating budgets of \$100,000 or less, or who have been operating for 12 or fewer months to identify a Fiscal Agent or to partner with an eligible applicant.
- **For-profit developers may apply for a grant provided they are partnered with an eligible Primary Applicant and the eligible applicant plays a significant role in the project including equity participation and/or other comparable financial benefits.**

EMERGING VS ESTABLISHED DEFINITIONS

Community Catalyst grants are intended to target EMERGING organizations.

Applicants who are classified as ***“Emerging”*** are eligible to apply for \$120,000 while ***“Established”*** applicants are eligible to apply for \$60,000.

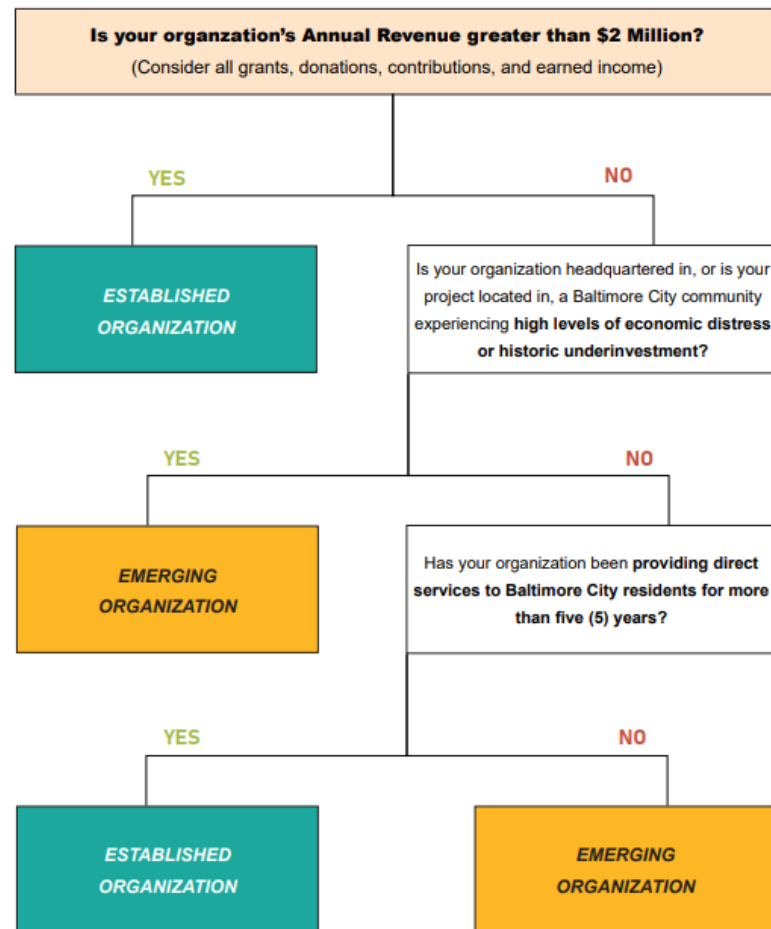
Applicants will self-identify whether they qualify as an “Emerging” or “Established” organization and must submit documentation justifying their classification.

Organizations with a **total annual revenue under \$2,000,000** and who meet at **least one** of the following additional criteria:

- Are headquartered in, or primarily deliver services in, Baltimore City communities identified by DHCD as **experiencing high levels of economic distress or historic underinvestment**
- Have been in operation providing direct services to Baltimore City residents for **five (5) years or fewer**

are considered **“Emerging”** for the purposes of the Community Catalyst Grants.

DHCD reserves the right to modify an applicant’s self-identified classification during Threshold Review.



OPERATING GRANTS AWARD AMOUNTS AND TERMS

- Operating support awards are available in fixed amounts based on organizational designation:
 - **Emerging** – \$120,000.00
 - **Established** – 60,000.00
 - Applicants must request the full fixed amount for their designation
- Awardees must execute a formal agreement with the BOE
- Awarded funds must be spent within a **12-month period** from the date of executing a Grant Agreement with BOE.
- City funds cannot comprise more than 30% of total project costs.
- Must comply with all City regulations (SMBA&D, Local Hiring, etc)
- To be eligible for Round 6 funding, applicants must be IN COMPLIANCE with all active or open Community Catalyst Grant (Operating or Capital) agreements.

OPERATING GRANTS ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE USES

ELIGIBLE USES:

- 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.

INELIGIBLE USES:

- Currently funded or duplication of existing programs
- Charter schools.
- Endowments.
- Fundraising campaigns.
- Programs associated with a specific religious or other affiliation or that support political actions, causes, advocacy, or parties.

OPERATING GRANTS FISCAL AGENT FEES

Grantees may compensate Fiscal Agents at rates they determine appropriate for their project. However, **only a portion of the CCG grant funds may be used to pay those fees**, as outlined below:

- **Fiscal Agent fees** paid by CCG grant funds may not exceed 10% of the total CCG Award Request and should be included as a budget line item on the [Operating Budget Template](#).
- Fiscal Agent roles may include fiduciary oversight, financial reporting, fund disbursement, compliance tracking, administrative support and coordination with DHCD; duplication of Fiscal Agent services with other paid roles may not be paid from CCG grant funds.
- Fiscal Agents have the option to either not accept a fee from their partnered grantee or donate their fee back to their partnered grantee if desired.

DHCD may require that a portion of the Fiscal Agent fee be deferred as part of the funding agreement. DHCD also reserves the right to modify fees during the award process.



APPLICATION PROCESS

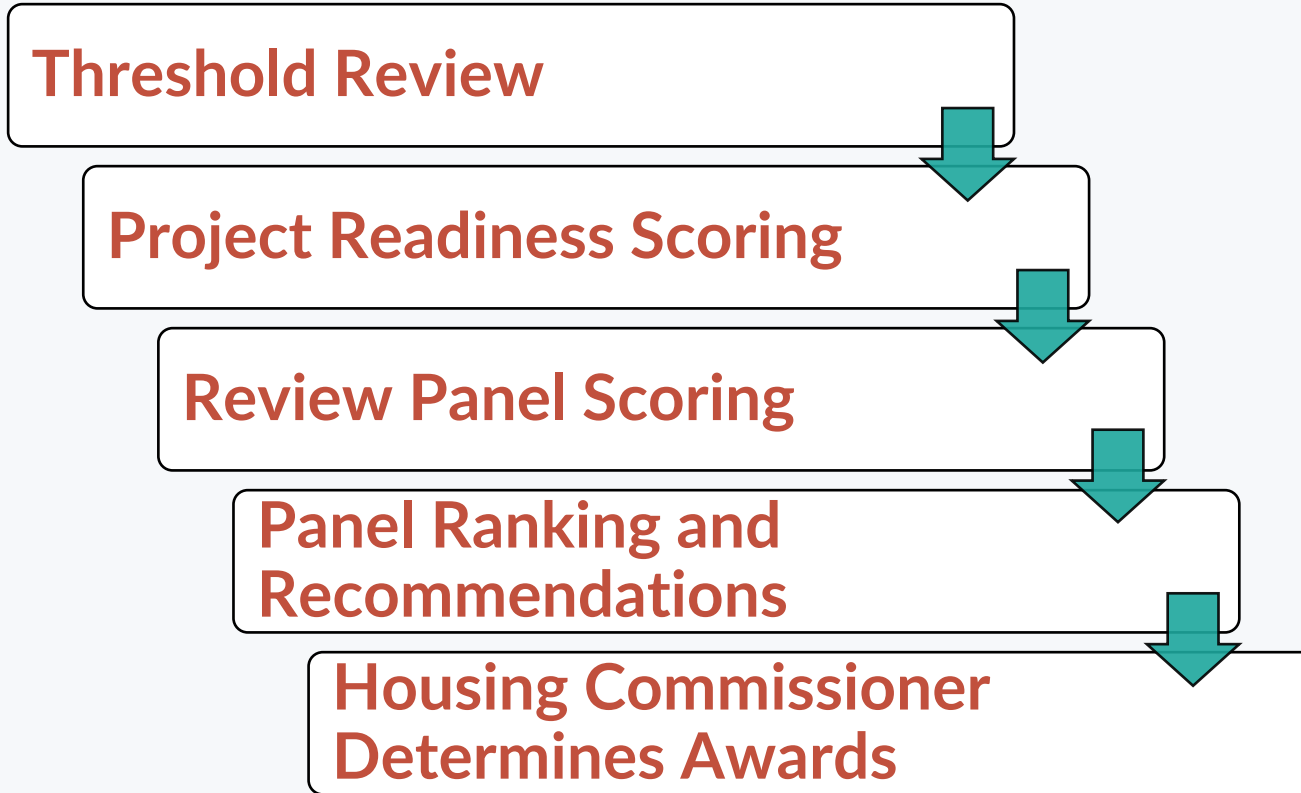
HOW TO APPLY

To access to the applicant portal, register your account, sign in,
and submit your application, click here:

<https://portal.neighborlysoftware.com/baltimoremd/Participant>

- Applications must be submitted through DHCD's online applicant Neighborly portal.
- If you experience technical difficulties with the portal, please email dhcd.ccg@baltimorecity.gov for assistance.
- A completed application, including all requested documents, must be submitted no later than **April 24, 2026, at 5:00 PM Eastern Standard Time** to be considered.
- **LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

SUBMITTED APPLICATIONS– REVIEW PROCESS



APPLICATION REVIEW - THRESHOLD CRITERIA

- Threshold Review is an administrative check to confirm that a submitted application is complete and that all required documentation has been submitted.
- To be eligible for scoring, applicants must submit all Required Documents in the [NOFA](#).
- As part of the Threshold Review, each application will be screened for completeness and accuracy.
 - If **three (3) or fewer** required documents are **missing, incorrect, or incomplete**, applicants will be **given a limited opportunity to cure** the deficiencies within a specified timeframe. **Notices to cure will be issued via e-mail to the primary contact on the application.**
 - If **four (4) or more** required documents are **missing, incorrect, or incomplete**, the application will be considered **ineligible** and **will not move forward** for scoring or award consideration. **No opportunity to cure will be provided.**

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS – APPLICATION NARRATIVES

PRIMARY APPLICANT	PARTNER APPLICANT	FISCAL AGENT
<u>Application Narratives</u> ☐ Project Readiness Narrative. ☐ Project Leader Resumes. ☐ CCG Project Budget Template. ☐ Scope and Schedule Template. ☐ Project Impact Narrative. ☐ Community Engagement Narrative. ☐ Community Engagement Plan. ☐ Achieving Equity Narrative. ☐ Consideration of Bonus Points (<i>optional</i>).	<u>Application Narratives</u> – N/A. PROVIDED BY PRIMARY APPLICANT.	<u>Application Narratives</u> – N/A. PROVIDED BY PRIMARY APPLICANT.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS – FINANCIAL INFORMATION

PRIMARY APPLICANT	PARTNER APPLICANT	FISCAL AGENT
Financial Information–Please provide documents no older than 2024. ☐ Copy of the <u>most recently filed</u> 990, 990EZ, or 990-N Tax Return. ☐ Financial Statements: ☐ Balance Sheet ☐ Income Statement ☐ Overall Annual Budget <i>If using a Fiscal Agent or Partnership to fulfil these requirements, please submit their documentation in lieu of the Primary Organization.</i>	Financial Information–Please provide documents no older than 2024. ☐ Copy of the <u>most recently filed</u> 990, 990EZ, or 990-N Tax Return. ☐ Financial Statements: ☐ Balance Sheet ☐ Income Statement ☐ Overall Annual Budget	Financial Information–Please provide documents no older than 2024. ☐ Copy of the <u>most recently filed</u> 990 Tax Return. ☐ Financial Statements: ☐ Most recent THREE (3) YEARS Certified Balance Sheets ☐ Most recent THREE (3) YEARS Certified Income Statements ☐ Most recent THREE (3) YEARS Certified Overall Annual Budgets

Organizations with Annual budget of \$500,000 or more should provide Audited Financial Statements.

Organizations with Annual budget of \$200,000 - \$500,000 should provide Certified Financial Statements.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS – ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

PRIMARY APPLICANT	PARTNER APPLICANT	FISCAL AGENT
<u>Organizational Information</u> ☐ ATTACHMENT D – CERTIFICATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT ☐ ATTACHMENT E – CORPORATE RESOLUTION/BOARD APPROVAL ☐ Articles of Incorporation of Primary Organization. ☐ By-Laws of Primary Organization. ☐ Current IRS Determination Letter indicating 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(6) status of Primary Organization. ☐ Evidence of Good Standing with the State of Maryland of Primary Organization. ☐ List of Board of Directors, including titles and affiliations of Primary Organization. ☐ Organizational Chart indicating staff roles, responsibilities, and chain of command of Primary Organization. ☐ ATTACHMENT F – CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE <i>If using a Fiscal Agent or Partnership to fulfil these requirements, please submit their documentation in lieu of the Primary Organization.</i>	<u>Organizational Information</u> ☐ Collaborate on and Sign ATTACHMENT D – CERTIFICATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT ☐ ATTACHMENT E – CORPORATE RESOLUTION/BOARD APPROVAL ☐ Articles of Incorporation of Partner Organization. ☐ By-Laws of Partner Organization. ☐ Current IRS Determination Letter indicating 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(6) status of Partner Organization. ☐ Evidence of Good Standing with the State of Maryland of Partner Organization. ☐ List of Board of Directors, including titles and affiliations of Partner Organization. ☐ Organizational Chart indicating staff roles, responsibilities, and chain of command of Partner Organization. ☐ Collaborate on and Sign ATTACHMENT F – CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE ☐ Memorandum of Understanding or Contract	<u>Organizational Information</u> ☐ Collaborate on and Sign ATTACHMENT D – CERTIFICATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT ☐ ATTACHMENT E – CORPORATE RESOLUTION/BOARD APPROVAL ☐ Articles of Incorporation of Fiscal Agent ☐ By-Laws of Fiscal Agent ☐ Current IRS Determination Letter indicating 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(6) status of Fiscal Agent ☐ Evidence of Good Standing with the State of Maryland of Fiscal Agent ☐ List of Board of Directors, including titles and affiliations of Fiscal Agent ☐ Organizational Chart indicating staff roles, responsibilities, and chain of command of Fiscal Agent ☐ Collaborate on and Sign ATTACHMENT F – CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE ☐ Copy of Fiscal Agents' policies and procedures

APPLICATION SCORING CRITERIA



APPLICATION SCORING

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

200 Points

PLEASE REFER TO THE [DETAILED SCORING RUBRIC](#) FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

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 within the 12-month grant term.
- Applicants must use the [CCG Budget Template](#) and [CCG Scope of Work Template](#). **Other formats will not be accepted.**

PROJECT READINESS	Points
Applicant Capacity. The project team experience will be reviewed and scored. The applicant's self-classification as an "Emerging" or "Established" organization will be assessed. Provide resumes for project leaders and principal contributors that demonstrate relevant experience, including past programs of similar size or complexity. Clear roles and responsibilities must be included.	25 Points
Financial Feasibility. Budgets, scopes, timelines, and other financial documentation will be evaluated. Scoring will reflect the project's feasibility, including a realistic budget using the CCG Operating Budget Template, confirmed or viable funding sources, adequate staffing, and a clear schedule for completing activities within the grant term.	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 IMPACT	Points
Project Vision and Summary. Provide a detailed description of the proposed project including the vision, goals, measurable outcomes, and intended positive impacts on Baltimore City and its residents. Scoring reflects clarity, feasibility, and potential for tangible impact.	25 Points
City's Framework for Community Development. Explain how your project aligns with the DHCD Framework for Community Development and supports City priorities. Include references to relevant initiatives or planning frameworks and describe how the project contributes to broader neighborhood and city goals.	25 Points

APPLICATION SCORING

- **Community Engagement and Participation (50 Maximum Points):**
 - DHCD is committed to ensuring that Community Catalyst projects leverage local revitalization plans and provide multiple, meaningful opportunities for stakeholder participation.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION	Points
Neighborhood participation in project ownership and control. Points are awarded when residents have formal, meaningful roles in program design, governance, or oversight (e.g., advisory committees, co-design of activities, or decision-making authority).	25 Points
Community Engagement Plan. Points are awarded for a structured engagement strategy with multi-channel outreach, measurable participation goals, and clear processes for collecting and acting on community feedback.	25 Points

APPLICATION SCORING

• Achieving Equity (50 Maximum Points):

- DHCD is committed to using Community Catalyst funds to reduce financial, social, and economic disparities in Baltimore City neighborhoods.

ACHIEVING EQUITY	Points
Equity in Geographic Areas. Points are awarded for projects targeting high-need neighborhoods or populations, supported by credible data (demographics, income, service gaps). Scoring reflects both the magnitude of need and the strength of the plan to reduce disparities.	25 Points
Supports City Equity Priorities. Points will be awarded to projects that reflect City Priorities, including but not limited to: ● Crime Reduction and improving public safety. ● Strengthening community access to education and public healthcare. ● Environmental and economic sustainability. ● Expansion of economic opportunities. ● Maximizing access to jobs created by reinvestment. ● Ensuring community voices are vital to shaping neighborhood redevelopment. Scoring will consider both alignment and evidence of need, showing how the project addresses measurable disparities	25 Points

APPLICATION SCORING

• Bonus Points:

- Applicants may **choose** to apply for bonus points from any of the following categories and may be awarded full or partial points in any one category.
- To be considered, clearly indicate which bonus categories apply to your project and **submit the required documentation and narrative explanation** for each.

STRATEGIC CITY AREA ALIGNMENT BONUS (Up to 5 points). Projects located in or directly benefiting priority investment areas in Baltimore City may earn bonus points. Eligible areas include Impact Investment Areas (IIAs), INSPIRE Plan Areas, Vacancy Reduction Areas, Stabilization Task Force Zones, Middle Neighborhoods Strategy Areas, Green Network Focus Areas, or other formally designated City initiatives tied to neighborhood revitalization or economic development.

To earn these points, applicants must:

- Upload supporting documentation (e.g., maps, screenshots, plan references, or links) that clearly identify which strategic area(s) the project is located in or serves;
- Provide a brief narrative describing how the project supports the goals of the area strategy.

SUPPORTS LOCAL BUSINESSES OR COMMUNITY SPACES BONUS (Up to 5 points). Projects that intentionally support Baltimore-based businesses or create accessible community spaces are eligible for bonus points.

To earn these points, applicants must:

- Upload supporting documentation of vendor commitments or partnership agreements;
- Provide a brief narrative explaining how your project supports local businesses or enhances community space access.

WORKFORCE ENGAGEMENT: APPRENTICESHIPS, TRAINING, OR YOUTH PARTICIPATION BONUS (Up to 5 points). Earn points for engaging Baltimore's local workforce, youth, or apprenticeship programs in your project.

To earn these points, applicants must:

- Upload supporting documentation of partnerships with workforce training programs;
- Provide a brief narrative describing your engagement plan and who will benefit.

COLLABORATION ACROSS MULTIPLE NEIGHBORHOODS BONUS (Up to 5 points). Projects that involve or impact multiple neighborhoods and show collaborative planning may earn bonus points.

To earn these points, applicants must:

- Upload supporting documentation of how different stakeholders are collaborating and working toward shared outcomes;
- Provide a brief narrative describing how your project spans multiple neighborhoods.

NEIGHBORLY ASSISTANCE





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

<https://portal.neighborlysoftware.com/baltimoremd/Participant>

Sign In

Register

Email Address



Password



Remember my email address

Sign In

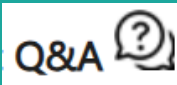
[Forgot your Password?](#)

[CCG Operating Round 6 Quick Start Guide](#)

[Neighborly User Guide](#)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

NOTE – WE CANNOT ANSWER PROJECT-SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

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



THANKS!

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

