



Fiscal Year 2028 Casino Local Impact Fund Request Form Guidelines

Publication Date: June 1, 2026

Updated: July 21, 2026

Key Details

Item	Detail
NOFO published / preview period begins	June 1, 2026
Funding request form opens	July 1, 2026
Final submission deadline	August 31, 2026, at 11:59 PM ET (Extended Deadline)
Submit a funding request	Submission Form Website
Eligible geography	Projects must be located in, clearly and directly benefit, the South Baltimore Gateway District. See Appendix A .
Funding available	July 1, 2027, subject to final Mayor and City Council budget approval.
Questions	CLIF@BaltimoreCity.gov
More information	CLIF website: baltimorecity.gov/planning/CLIF

Program Overview

The Casino Local Impact Fund (CLIF) supports projects and programs in the South Baltimore Gateway District. CLIF funds improve community development, economic growth, public infrastructure, public services, and quality of life for residents. Projects should provide clear public benefits to people, neighborhoods, businesses, students, workers, and community groups in the District.

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is the general entry point for FY28 CLIF funding requests.

Note: This opportunity is separate from the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership (SBGP), which also provides funding for organizations in the South Baltimore Gateway District. More information can be found on [SBGP's website](#).

What Can Be Submitted Through This NOFO?

Organizations are invited to submit funding requests to deliver CLIF-supported projects, programs, services, or to administer funding on behalf of the City.

Examples of prior funded projects include homeowner support, homebuyer assistance, cultural space creation or upkeep, organizational support, or other community benefits.

Individuals cannot apply for direct assistance through this NOFO. If CLIF funds a program intended to provide direct assistance to residents, homeowners, or homebuyers, those residents should apply through a CLIF-approved, program-specific process administered by the selected organization, agency, or partner.

CLIF may recommend funding a request as a single award, combine similar requests, or structure funding through an administrator, agency, or partner organization to manage on behalf of the City. If you are unsure whether your proposal should be submitted through this NOFO, attend the information sessions (see [Appendix B](#)) or contact the CLIF program manager before submitting a funding request.

Background and Funding Source

Casino Local Impact Funds are received through Maryland State Government Article § 9-1A-31, which states that local impact grants are received for improvements in communities in immediate proximity to video lottery facilities.

Grants may support infrastructure, facilities, public safety, sanitation, economic and community development, including housing and other public services and improvements. State law also establishes a Local Development Council (LDC) to advise the municipality on funding recommendations in the designated area of each video lottery facility.

In Baltimore City, the LDC advises the Mayor on priorities for local impact funds. The Mayor and City Council make final funding decisions through the City budget process. More details on the State Law is available below:

- [State Government § 9-1A-31](#)
- [House Bill 529 / Chapter 220 \(2023\)](#)

CLIF aligns with the South Baltimore Gateway Master Plan goals ([Appendix C](#)) as a guide for funding. Requests should clearly show how the project benefits the South Baltimore Gateway District and advances at least one goal.

Award Amounts and Project Timeline

There is no minimum or maximum award amount for the general FY28 Funding Request process. Requesters should request only the amount needed for a clear phase of work. Requests should include a realistic budget, a clear implementation plan, and a clear explanation of any other funds needed to complete the project. Examples of prior CLIF-funded projects and award amounts are available in the FY26 and FY27 CLIF Spending Plans on the CLIF website.

CLIF may fund all, part, or none of a funding request. Requesters should explain whether the proposed project can proceed if CLIF recommends partial funding or requests a revised scope, budget, or timeline. Final award amounts will depend on available FY28 CLIF funding, project readiness, alignment with CLIF goals, public benefit, and the City budget process.

Projects should be ready to begin after FY28 funds become available on July 1, 2027. Project timelines should be completed within 24 months after the agreement starts. Multi-year or capital projects may be considered if the request clearly explains the full project schedule, funding gap, implementation plan, and any permitting, procurement, site control, or agreement steps needed before work can begin.

Eligibility

Geography

Projects must be in the South Baltimore Gateway District or must clearly and directly benefit District residents, businesses, students, workers, or community groups. Eligible neighborhoods are listed in [Appendix A](#).

Entity

Eligible requesters include:

- A nonprofit organization with tax-exempt status recognized by the IRS.
- A mission-based organization without tax-exempt status that submits through a tax-exempt fiscal sponsor.
- A faith-based organization proposing a nonreligious project that benefits the public.
- A public school proposing a community-based project that benefits its students.
- A City agency or other public agency.

Lead requesters must be tax-exempt entities, public agencies, or organizations using an eligible fiscal sponsor. For-profit entities may participate as partners, vendors, or contractors, but may not be the lead requester.

Basic Eligibility Criteria

- **Organization location.** The lead requester or fiscal sponsor must be based in Baltimore City unless CLIF approves a clear exception for a project with a direct District benefit.
- **Tax-exempt status.** Requesters or fiscal sponsors must provide an IRS determination letter or other proof of tax-exempt status.
- **Tax ID number.** Requesters or fiscal sponsors must have an active tax identification number.
- **Financial documents.** Requesters or fiscal sponsors must provide the financial documents listed in the Financial and Audit Requirements section.
 - **Bank account.** Requesters or fiscal sponsors must have a valid bank account in the organization's name.
 - **Good standing.** Requesters or fiscal sponsors must provide proof of good standing from the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation, when applicable.
 - **Insurance.** Projects must meet Baltimore City insurance requirements before funds are paid.
 - **Prior awards.** Requesters must be current on required reports for prior CLIF awards and other City- or State-mandated reporting requirements related to prior funding.

Financial and Audit Requirements

Requesters must provide financial documents based on annual charitable contributions. Charitable contributions are private sources and do not include government funding.

Annual charitable contributions	Required financial documents
Less than \$300,000	IRS Form 990, 990-EZ, 990-N, or equivalent financial statement
\$300,000-\$749,999	IRS Form 990 plus CPA-reviewed financial statements
\$750,000 or more	IRS Form 990 plus CPA-audited financial statements

Organizations that spend \$750,000 or more in federal funds may also be subject to Single Audit requirements. CLIF may request audit findings, management letters, and corrective action plans.

Eligible Uses of Funds

CLIF funds may support projects and programs that benefit District residents, including community development, economic development, infrastructure improvements, public space improvements, public services, community planning, education, health, wellness, neighborhood safety, cultural spaces, homeowner support, homebuyer assistance, and organizational support. Projects must align with one or more of the following CLIF goals as developed in the South Baltimore Gateway Master Plan:

- Transportation Connectivity
- Environmental Sustainability
- Safety
- Community Development & Revitalization
- Economic Growth
- Education
- Health & Wellness
- Quality of Life
- Community Infrastructure

See [Appendix C](#) for more information on the South Baltimore Gateway Master Plan goals.

Funding Restrictions and Ineligible Uses

CLIF generally does not fund the uses listed below. CLIF may review some requests case-by-case when there is a clear public benefit, written approval, and a direct connection to an eligible project scope.

- Projects that do not benefit the South Baltimore Gateway District.
- Religious worship, religious instruction, or proselytizing.
- Partisan political activity or campaign activity.
- Costs that have already been fully paid by another source.
- Costs incurred before an agreement is executed, unless CLIF specifically allows those costs in writing.
- Activities that primarily benefit a private business or individual without a clear public benefit.

Under the general FY28 Funding Request process, some costs may be restricted or reviewed case-by-case, including food and refreshments, entertainment, fundraising events, general operating support, alcohol, lobbying, debt service, legal settlements, fines or penalties, cash payments or gift cards to individuals, privately owned equipment or property, and staff costs not tied to the funded project scope.

Funding Request Process

Funding requests must be submitted through the CLIF portal listed below by the deadline. Late submissions may not be reviewed. CLIF may ask requesters for more information during review. The complete timeline is in [Appendix B](#).

Funding request item	Date / detail
NOFO publication / preview period begins	June 1, 2026
Funding request opens	July 1, 2026
Funding request closes	August 31, 2026, at 11:59 PM Eastern Time
Submittable portal link	https://cityofbaltimoreplanning.submittable.com/submit

A Word version of the funding request will be available on the CLIF website or by contacting CLIF@BaltimoreCity.gov. The Word version is intended to help requesters prepare their responses before submitting their request through the portal.

Accessibility, Technical Assistance, and Written Questions

Information meetings and technical assistance sessions are intended to help potential requesters understand the NOFO, the funding request process, and the materials needed to submit a complete request. Dates and times are listed in [Appendix B](#), and details on how to join the meetings will be shared on the CLIF website. To request an accommodation or support related to a meeting, a technical assistance session, or request materials, contact CLIF at CLIF@BaltimoreCity.gov.

Questions, answers, updates, and clarifications may be posted on the CLIF website, so all potential requesters have access to the same information. CLIF may issue updates or addenda to this NOFO before the funding request deadline.

Funding Request Form Outline

The Funding Request Form is expected to ask for the following information. CLIF may add or adjust prompts before the form opens:

- Requester name, contact information, and fiscal sponsor information, if applicable.
- Project name, project address, and neighborhood(s) served.
- Funding amount requested and total project cost.
- Project type, such as capital improvement, program operations, planning, grant administration, staffing, equipment, or services.
- CLIF goal alignment.
- Project summary written in plain language.
- Scope of work and timeline.
- Community need and expected public benefit.
- Community input, letters of support, or engagement plan.
- Project partners and contractor information, if known.
- Line-item budget and matching or leveraged funds.
- Performance measures and reporting plan.
- Required attachments listed in [Appendix D](#).

Review Process and What Happens After Submission

- **Confirmation.** After a funding request is submitted through the Submittable portal, the requester will receive a submission confirmation by email.
- **Eligibility and completeness screening.** CLIF staff screen the request for basic eligibility and completeness. During this screening period, staff may contact requesters for additional information or corrections through a cure period.
- **Staff review.** Complete and eligible requests are reviewed for alignment with CLIF and South Baltimore Gateway Master Plan goals, community impact, feasibility, organizational capacity, budget clarity, and risk. CLIF staff may consult with City agencies, public partners, and subject-matter experts as part of this review.
- **Mayor's Office review.** Staff findings inform Mayor's Office review and development of the draft **preliminary** FY28 CLIF Spending Plan. The Mayor approves the draft **preliminary** funding slate before it is presented for Local Development Council (LDC) review.
- **LDC and public review.** State Law requires the LDC to participate in a public review process and advise on the Spending Plan, helping to ensure that the Plan's recommendations best meet the needs of the community. The draft **preliminary** Spending Plan is published for LDC review and public engagement. Project summaries may be shared during this public review process, and the LDC provides advisory input and endorsement to the City.
 - **Final LDC recommendations.** The public review period informs the LDC's final recommendations for a second Mayoral review. These final recommendations are sent to the City after the 45-day public review period.
 - **Mayoral review.** The Mayor makes the final Spending Plan recommendations, which are included in the City's budget for review by City Council.
- **City Council consideration.** The Mayor sends the LDC-endorsed Spending Plan to the City Council for consideration as part of the City budget process.
- **Agreement development and Board of Estimates approval.** After the City Council adopts the budget, recommended projects move into agreement development. Grant agreements must be developed and signed. Agreements are subject to fiscal, legal, and other review and must be approved by the Board of Estimates before funds can be paid.

Submitting a funding request does not guarantee funding or create an entitlement to funding. Final awards depend on review, available funding, public input, LDC advisory input, and final Mayor and City Council budget approval.

Evaluation Criteria

Funding requests will be reviewed using the criteria below. These criteria help CLIF compare requests. They do not guarantee funding.

Category	What reviewers will look for
Alignment with CLIF and Master Plan Goals	The project clearly advances one or more CLIF goals and fits the South Baltimore Gateway District.
Community Impact and Input	The project responds to a clear community need, shows direct benefit to District residents, and includes meaningful community input or support.
Feasibility and Readiness	The timeline, scope, permits, partners, and work plan are realistic. The project can start and finish within the expected period.
Organizational Capacity	The requester and partners have the experience, staffing, financial controls, and reporting capacity to complete the project.
Budget Clarity and Funding Plan	The budget is clear, reasonable, and tied to the scope. Matching funds, leveraged funds, and payments to contractors are disclosed.
Equity	Structural Equity: What is the project's impact on the historical advantages or disadvantages that have affected residents in the given community? Procedural Equity: How are residents who have been historically excluded from planning processes being authentically included in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the proposed project? Distributional Equity: How does the project improve the distribution of resources and investments to improve outcomes for Black and other marginalized communities? Transgenerational Equity: Does the project ease unfair burdens on future generations?

Organizational capacity concerns may result in conditions, partial funding, a fiscal sponsor requirement, technical assistance, or non-selection, even when a project otherwise aligns with CLIF goals.

Reporting and Compliance

Awardees must report on progress, spending, and outcomes. Reporting requirements will be included in grant agreements or agency agreements. Reports must be submitted even when no invoice is submitted for that quarter, unless CLIF gives written approval to skip a report.

Quarterly Reporting Schedule

Reporting period	Report due date	What to submit
Q1: July 1-September 30	October 15	Progress report, spending update, performance measures, and invoice, if requesting payment.
Q2: October 1-December 31	January 15	Progress report, spending update, performance measures, and invoice, if requesting payment.
Q3: January 1-March 31	April 15	Progress report, spending update, performance measures, and invoice, if requesting payment.
Q4: April 1-June 30	July 15	Progress report, spending update, performance measures, final or year-end update, and invoice, if requesting payment.

Payments and Disbursement

CLIF funds are generally paid on a reimbursement basis after approved costs are incurred. Different payment schedules may be allowed if stated in the approved grant agreement. Awardees must submit invoices and required reports before payment. Final payment may be held until final reporting is complete.

Awardees may need to register, maintain an active supplier account, and submit invoices through the City of Baltimore payment system, Workday. These steps will be shared after receiving award notification.

Budget Disclosure and Conflicts of Interest

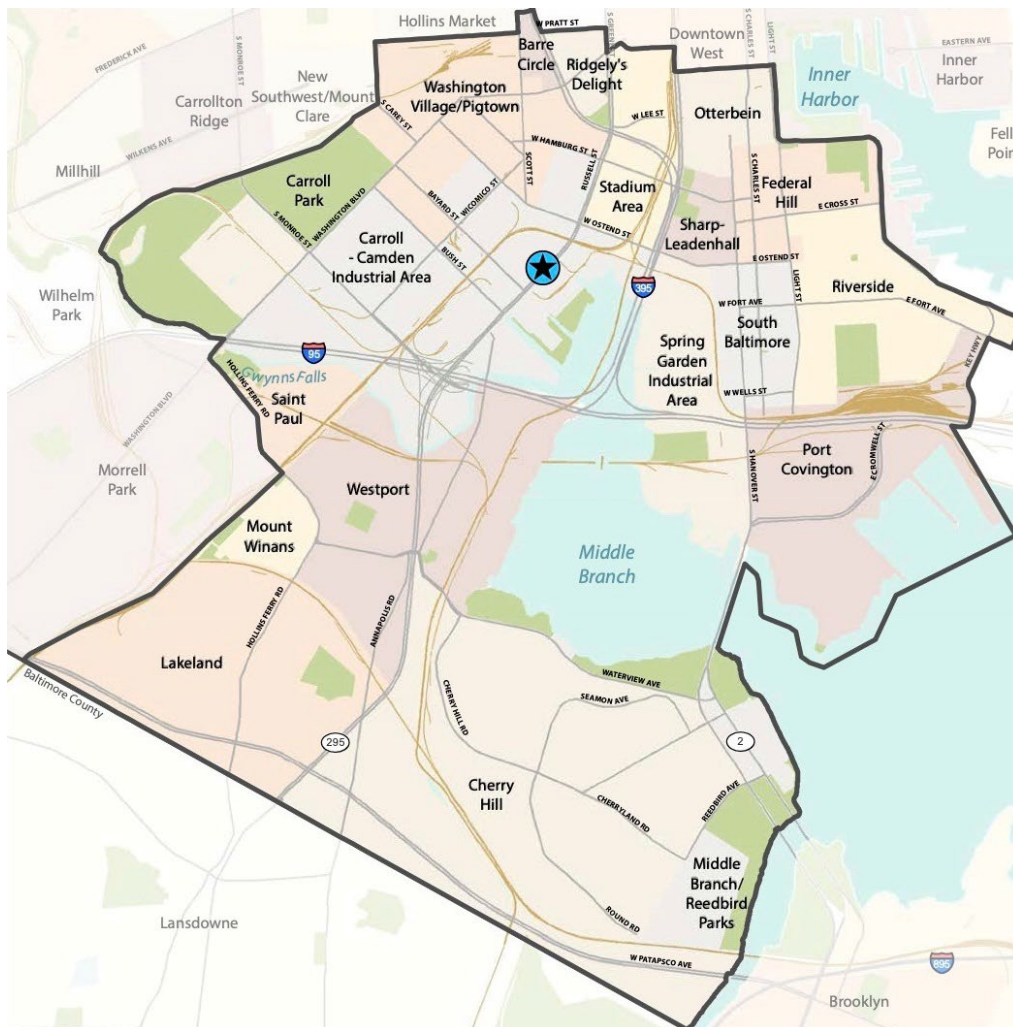
Budgets must clearly identify all payments to for-profit entities, including the exact dollar amounts to be paid. Requesters must disclose any relationships between the requester, partner organizations, contractors, or other entities receiving CLIF funds. This includes shared board members, staff, ownership, family relationships, or financial interests.

Appendix A: South Baltimore Gateway District Neighborhoods

Projects must be located within, or clearly and directly benefit, the South Baltimore Gateway District. The eligible neighborhoods include:

Neighborhood	Neighborhood
Westport	Cherry Hill
Lakeland	Pigtown/Washington Village
Carroll-Camden	Ridgely's Delight
Barre Circle	Otterbein
Federal Hill	Riverside
South Baltimore	Sharp-Leadenhall
Stadium Area	Baltimore Peninsula
Mount Winans	Spring Garden Industrial Area

Potential requesters may use the [CLIF eligibility map](#) to check whether a proposed project address is within the South Baltimore Gateway District.



Appendix B: Timeline and Key Dates

The FY28 funding request timeline is below. LDC meeting dates and times will be published on the CLIF website page at <https://baltimorecity.gov/planning/clif> Meetings may be recorded and posted to the CLIF YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@BaltimoreCityCLIF>

Milestone	Date and time
NOFO published / preview period begins	Monday, June 1, 2026
First Information Meeting	Wednesday, June 10, 2026, 10-11 AM (Virtual)
Second Information Meeting	Wednesday, June 10, 2026, 6-8 PM (Hybrid - Middle Branch Fitness and Wellness Center. Dinner will be served; RSVP appreciated.)
Third Information Meeting	Tuesday, June 23, 2026, 10-11 AM (Virtual)
Fourth Information Meeting	Tuesday, June 23, 2026, 6-8 PM (Hybrid - Middle Branch Fitness and Wellness Center. Dinner will be served; RSVP appreciated.)
Funding request opens	Wednesday, July 1, 2026
First Technical Assistance Open House	Wednesday, July 8, 2026, 10 AM-12 PM (Virtual)
Second Technical Assistance Open House	Wednesday, July 8, 2026, 6-8 PM (Hybrid - Middle Branch Fitness and Wellness Center. Dinner will be served; RSVP appreciated.)
Third Technical Assistance Open House	Thursday, July 23, 2026, 10 AM-12 PM (Virtual)
Fourth Technical Assistance Open House	Thursday, July 23, 2026, 6-8 PM (Hybrid - Middle Branch Fitness and Wellness Center. Dinner will be served; RSVP appreciated.)
Fifth Technical Assistance Open House	Friday, July 31, 2026, CANCELLED
Funding request closes	Friday, Augusts 31, 2026, at 11:59 PM ET (Extended Deadline)
Staff review	September 2026
Proposed Spending Plan published / transmitted to LDC	October 2026
LDC Public Meeting #1	November 2026
LDC Public Meeting #2	December 2026
LDC Public Meeting #3	January 2026
Budget integration and approval	January-May 2027
FY28 funding available	Thursday, July 1, 2027 (Start of FY28 Fiscal Year)

Appendix C: South Baltimore Gateway Master Plan Goals

Requests should identify the South Baltimore Gateway Master Plan goal or goals advanced by the proposed project. The goals below summarize the framework used to organize CLIF investments. Details on this plan and the goals are available in the [South Baltimore Gateway Master Plan document](#).

Icon	Goal	Description	Examples
	Transportation Connectivity	Improve connections between neighborhoods, transit, trails, jobs, and parks.	Bush Street Cycle Track; Baltimore Greenway Trails; Complete Streets
	Environmental Sustainability	Support environmental restoration, cleaner neighborhoods, and resilient public spaces.	Clean Corps; Marine Debris Removal; Park Improvements
	Safety	Improve public safety, violence prevention, and neighborhood wellbeing.	Digital Harbor Violence Intervention; CitiWatch Support
	Community Development & Revitalization	Strengthen neighborhoods through housing, grants, placemaking, and revitalization.	Community Development Fund; Cultural Spaces Grants
	Economic Growth	Expand workforce development, business support, and local hiring opportunities.	Employment Connection Center; YouthWorks; Facade Grants; Promotion
	Education	Support literacy, youth development, and educational programming.	Summer Academy Programs; Environmental Education
	Health & Wellness	Improve health outcomes, food access, recreation, and homelessness response.	Produce Rx; Wellness Programming
	Quality of Life	Enhance arts, recreation, public spaces, and community activation.	Festivals; Waterfront Events
	Infrastructure	Invest in long-term public infrastructure and capital improvements.	Trails; utilities; public facilities

Appendix D: Funding Request Checklist

The online funding request form in the CLIF portal may include different prompts or upload fields depending on the type of request. Organizational requesters should prepare the items below before submitting. If CLIF later funds a program for residents, homeowners, or homebuyers, resident-facing requirements will be provided through the CLIF-approved program-specific process. CLIF may request other documentation during the process.

Required at Submission

- Scope of work.
- Project budget with line-item costs.
- Project timeline.
- Project location or description of direct District benefit.
- CLIF goal alignment.
- Performance measures and reporting plan.
- Current and prior fiscal year organizational budgets.
- List of current board members.
- Proof of tax-exempt status or fiscal sponsor agreement.
- IRS Form 990, financial statement, or audit as required.
- Conflict-of-interest disclosures, including relationships between requesters, partners, contractors, or entities receiving funds.

Submit if Applicable

- Certificate of good standing for non-governmental submitters.
- Letters of support or community input documentation.
- Project site address, map, photos, or site control documents.
- List of project partners and contractors, if known.
- Matching funds, leveraged funds, or partner commitment documentation.
- Permits, approvals, procurement information, or site control information.
- Prior CLIF award reporting status.

Required if Selected Before Agreement or Payment

- Final scope, budget, and timeline if revisions are required.
- Insurance documentation.
- City of Baltimore payment system (Workday) supplier registration and payment information, if required.
- Final fiscal sponsor agreement, if applicable.
- City-required forms, agreement documents, and any additional compliance materials.