

COVID-19 RESPONSE  
FUNDING COLLABORATIVE  
of Greater Baltimore

## Request for Proposals

### OVERVIEW

Funders in the Greater Baltimore area are working together to streamline the application process for non-profit organizations seeking resources to support changes in operations and sustainability due to COVID-19. Baltimore's Promise, a non-profit collective impact organization, is supporting the effort as the administrative backbone and primary point of contact for applicants.

The Collaborative's website and application process have been designed with equity as a core principle so that this process is easily shared with and accessible to the non-profit ecosystems we seek to reach. The application is structured to collect necessary information about organizational attributes as well as populations and geographies served that will allow participating funders to apply their organizational equity lens in their respective decision-making processes. Through a streamlined application process that creates a single point of entry for applicants, funders will be able to quickly identify applicants who are best able to address gaps in critical services to vulnerable populations and disburse resources to support those community organizations.

### APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

This funding opportunity is open to non-profit organizations.

All eligible applicants must:

1. Provide a copy of one of the following financial documents from within the last two fiscal years:
  - **For organizations with annual revenues of \$750,000 or more:** Financial audit of your organization prepared by an independent auditor
  - **For organizations with annual revenues between \$300,000 and \$749,999:** Financial statement reviewed by an independent auditor OR a financial audit of your organization prepared by an independent auditor.
  - **For organizations with annual revenues under \$300,000:** Internal financial statements
2. Provide evidence that you hold a Good Standing Certificate of Status with the State of Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation. (For information on how to obtain your Certificate of Good Standing, please visit <https://dat.maryland.gov/businesses/Pages/Internet-Certificate-of-Status.aspx>.)

Organizations that do not have non-profit status or cannot meet the financial document requirements above may partner with a fiscal agent who meets these requirements and who serves as the lead applicant.

## APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY (continued)

### *Please note:*

- Individuals are not eligible to apply for funding through this application.
- If you use a fiscal agent or sponsor, you must use their organizational budget and financial documents in your application.
- An organization can apply a maximum of two times to this opportunity during this initial grantmaking period (ending May 29th, 2020) *if* the proposals are for distinct purposes or projects.

## GEOGRAPHIC AREA

Funding is available through this application for organizations/activities serving one or more of the following jurisdictions: Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Anne Arundel County, Carroll County, and Harford County.

The geographic focus for funders participating in this collaborative COVID-19 response are listed below.

- ***Abell Foundation:*** Baltimore City
- ***Annie E. Casey Foundation:*** Baltimore City
- ***Baltimore Community Foundation:*** Baltimore City and Baltimore County
- ***The Bernard Family:*** Baltimore City and Baltimore County
- ***France-Merrick Foundation:*** Baltimore City and Baltimore County
- ***Goldseker Foundation:*** Baltimore City
- ***The Lerner Family:*** Baltimore City
- ***Rauch Foundation:*** Baltimore City and Baltimore County
- ***United Way of Central Maryland:*** Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Anne Arundel County, Carroll County, and Harford County

For non-profit agencies seeking funding to support COVID-19 relief efforts in Howard County, please click here: [www.hocorespond.com](http://www.hocorespond.com).

## GRANT REQUESTS AND AWARDS

The Collaborative has not set a maximum request amount. However, we expect that a significant majority of funded proposals will receive \$10,000 - \$25,000 total from the Collaborative and that most proposals will receive total awards not to exceed \$75,000.

## APPLICATION SUBMISSION TIMELINE / DEADLINES

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. The Collaborative is committed to rapid response in effort to get vital resources out to our communities. We will review applications, communicate funding decisions and disburse funds as quickly as we are able. Applicants should receive e-mail notices from

Baltimore's Promise on behalf of the Collaborative within 14 business days of application submission, depending on the volume of requests.

The duration of funding availability is unknown at this time and will be determined by many factors, including the amount of funding raised from additional funders and the length of the immediate crisis and its recovery period.

The application for this first rapid response period will be closed on May 29, 2020 at 5:00 PM.

## **FUNDING PRIORITIES**

Understanding that the needs in our communities will continue to emerge and change and be influenced by public funding responses, as well as additional philanthropic investments, we are approaching our COVID-19 response through a lens of short-term, mid-term and long-term support. The priorities listed below are focused primarily on short-term immediate needs facing our communities. Changes in funding priorities and even applicant eligibility criteria are likely over the coming weeks and/or months. Any changes will be clearly identified within the online application.

**Please note:** The Baltimore Community Foundation and/or United Way of Central Maryland may refer your application to other COVID-19 resource opportunities if your proposal aligns strongly with their funding focus.

As of April 10, 2020, our funding priorities are as follows:

***I. Access to food*** - This funding can support efforts that address gaps in existing efforts to ensure vulnerable populations have access to healthy food.

***II. Access to other home essentials (such as toiletries, diapers, cleaning supplies, non-prescription medications)*** - This funding is especially for individuals who are unable to get to and/or pay for these necessities.

***III. Nonprofit Sustainability*** - In the short-term, we will only consider requests from non-profit organizations that are providing direct relief services who may also be experiencing difficulties paying staff, overhead, etc., due to loss of fee for service revenue or fundraising events. In other words, if your organization needs funding to maintain operations in order to provide COVID-19-related relief services, then your organization may make that request of this fund.

***IV. Technology/Capacity of Non-Profits who Support those affected by COVID-19*** - This funding can support non-profit organizations to expand their technology capacity or other operational capacity to effectively serve those affected by COVID-19 while maintaining employee, volunteer and client safety.

***V. Mental Health and Community Coping*** - This funding can support efforts that address the emerging or increasing mental health or wellness needs resulting from increased stress over health concerns, job loss, managing increased household needs, prolonged isolation (especially for older adults), etc.

## **FUNDING PRIORITIES (continued)**

**VI. Support for First Responders and Health Care Workers** - This funding can resource efforts that support individuals serving in these critical roles. This includes but is not limited to acquiring medical and personal protective equipment, temporary housing, childcare, and family support.

**VII. Information Sharing and Credible Information Sources** - This funding can support the packaging, marketing, and distribution of accurate information (from verified sources such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, state government, and local governments) to provide credible information to vulnerable populations to (1) stem the spread of the virus and avoid overwhelming emergency departments and health care providers; and (2) help communities understand and cope with social distancing and stay-at-home policies.

## **USE OF FUNDS**

These funds are not intended to replace larger, public, systems level responses to the current crisis. Therefore, items such as funds for rental assistance will not be a priority while there is a moratorium on evictions, in order to prioritize other immediate needs. As public policy responses are implemented, funders will continue to assess where gaps exist and how our COVID-19 response grant making can be most effective in addressing immediate needs.

## **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

If your organization is awarded funding through this effort, you will be required to submit a short report that will serve as the shared narrative template for all funders.

To apply, please visit this site: <https://baltimorespromise.formstack.com/forms/gbc19rfcapp>