



## **South Baltimore Gateway Food Access Grant Report**

**August 10, 2017**

### **Background**

Food access is a priority in Baltimore City. Food deserts are located in the Cherry Hill and Washington Village/Pigtown neighborhoods of the South Baltimore Gateway. 17% of the residents in this area live in a food desert. This includes 30% of children and 15% of the seniors. Although 46% of the South Baltimore Gateway residents are black, they make up 90% of those living in food deserts.

### **Grant Goals**

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is lead for community-based food access programs through its Baltimarket initiative. Both employ a place-based approach to food access by helping communities implement strategies unique to their local challenges. BDC is partnering in efforts to recruit a full-size grocery store to the CIA.

Funding in FY17 enabled Baltimarket to administer and fund a Homegrown Baltimore Mini-Grant Program, expand the number of Virtual Supermarket Program sites, present toolkits and resources from the Health Corner Store Program, and collaborate with BDC and the Department of Planning on transportation analysis and attracting supermarkets to the CIA. For the mini-grants, BCHD staff developed and reviewed mini-grant RFPs, executed MOUs, conducted site visits, and developed and collected reporting forms for grantees. Line items were: personnel time at a cost of \$30,000, mini-grants to community organizations at a cost \$60,000, BDC studies at \$20,000 and Virtual Supermarket program fees at \$40,000.

\* Due to inability of community-based grantees to administer mini-grants, \$15,000 was re-allocated to Baltimore Development Corporation for food studies in Cherry Hill, with an additional \$5,000 being allocated to the initiative from Impact funds.

### **Virtual Supermarket Program Support and Growth**

The Virtual Supermarket Program is run by the Baltimore City Health Department's Baltimarket Program, in collaboration with ShopRite. It enables people struggling to access healthy food to order groceries weekly at a community-based site and pick up those groceries at the same site with no delivery fee. Through Impact funds, BCHD supported 3 existing (Cherry Hill Senior Manor, Cherry Hill Library, Mt. Clare Overlook) and 1 new (Hannover Square) Virtual Supermarket Program sites in the South Baltimore Gateway. These sites served 210 unique users who placed 1806 orders totaling \$45,059 in FY17. These customers redeemed 177, \$10 healthy food discounts for being new customers or on holidays. Baltimarket expanded program eligibility to include more potential sites in the South Baltimore Gateway and initiated a partnership with the American Heart Association's mobile teaching kitchen, which provided hands-on cooking classes.



## **Baltimore Development Corporation Food Studies**

### **Food Co-op Feasibility Pilot Study & Pilot - \$10,000**

The Baltimore Development Corporation is awarding Black Yield Institute \$10,000 to conduct a feasibility study, including a buying club pilot, in Cherry Hill to address healthy food access among residents of the community. The project began on July 1, 2017 and will conclude by June 30, 2018.

### **Market Study and Site Selection for Cherry Hill Grocery - \$10,000**

The Baltimore Development Corporation is seeking proposals to award \$10,000 to conduct a market study and site selection for grocery store in Cherry Hill. Five proposals have been solicited and work will be concluded by June 30, 2018.

## **Transportation Analysis**

The Baltimore Office of Sustainability's Baltimore Food Policy Initiative collaborated with Central Maryland Transportation Alliance (CMTA) for analysis of BaltimoreLink that looked specifically at the impact on food access. The Baltimore Food Policy Initiative submitted comments for the first and second draft of BaltimoreLink. Both are available upon request.

## **Healthy Stores Outreach**

The Baltimarket Healthy Stores Program enrolled one corner store into its program, providing training, technical assistance, youth programming, incentives, and promotion to Pigtown's Shop n Go in order to promote increased sales of healthy foods. This included a semester-long afterschool program at Paul's Place that taught Kidz in the Kitchen participants leadership development, healthy eating, and more.

Program staff met with Pigtown Main Streets, Historic Pigtown, Paul's Place, the Cherry Hill Community Development Corporation, and the Cherry Hill WIC clinic to discuss store recruitment. 13 corner stores in the Impact Area were approached to assess interest in the program.

## **Future Directions**

The Health Department has successfully built the infrastructure for supporting community organizations in reaching their food access goals in the South Baltimore Gateway. Going forward, more small grants should be available, in addition to a small number of larger grants. This will allow for quicker response to community-identified needs.

The Health Department has submitted a request to the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership, which is currently under review.

## South Baltimore Gateway Access Mini-Grants

<b>Grant Outcomes</b>	<b>Goal #</b>	<b>Total #</b>
<b>Businesses receiving technical assistance in selling healthy food</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>
Pigtown Main Street *	5	0
<b>Farmers markets</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
Civic Works	3	3
<b>Local residents trained and/or hired in food access jobs</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>3</b>
Civic Works	3	3
Cherry Hill Urban Garden *	20	
<b>Nutrition education classes</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>104</b>
Baltimore Station	12	12
Civic Works	16	16
Paul's Place *	69	69
MedStar *	18	7
<b>People reached with information about healthy food</b>	<b>1008</b>	<b>1148</b>
Baltimore Station	138	223
Civic Works	320	300
Paul's Place *	250	175
MedStar *	300	450
<b>People taking part in Food Justice Community Conversation</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>192</b>
Baltimore Station	14	14
Civic Works	45	155
Paul's Place *	30	23
<b>People taking part in nutrition education classes</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>159</b>
Baltimore Station	20	40
Paul's Place *	60	60
MedStar *	108	59
Cherry Hill Urban Garden *	65	
<b>People with increased access to healthy food</b>	<b>2368</b>	<b>2539</b>
Baltimore Station	138	223
Civic Works	250	300
Maryland Food Bank	1300	1500
Paul's Place *	550	516
Cherry Hill Urban Garden *	130	
<b>Pounds of food distributed at food pantries</b>	<b>155000</b>	<b>173770</b>
Maryland Food Bank	155000	173770
<b>Urban farms supported</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
Civic Works	3	3

\* indicates extension has been granted

### Completed Grants

- **Maryland Food Bank - \$10,000**
- **Civic Works - \$10,000**
- **Baltimore Station - \$4,000**

### Extensions Granted until 12/31/2017

- **MedStar Harbor Hospital - \$3,000 (\$1,000 spent)**  
Due to staff turnover, Medstar completed roughly half of its deliverables and requests until December 31, 2017 to complete the remainder of its work.
- **Paul's Place - \$14,000 (\$12,894 spent)**  
Paul's Place completed the majority of its grant deliverables but did not spend \$1,100 and requests until December 31, 2017 to spend these remaining funds on continuing the project.
- **Cherry Hill Development Corp - \$14,000 (\$5451 spent)**  
Due to staff turnover, Cherry Hill Urban Garden completed roughly half of its deliverables and requests until December 31, 2017 to complete the remainder of its work.
- **Pigtown Main Streets - \$5,000 (\$3,000 spent)**  
Due to staff turnover, Pigtown Main Streets requests until December 31, 2017 to complete the remainder of its work.

### Grantees Selected, but Unable to Complete Scope of Work

- **Baltimore Hire Power - \$4,000**  
Baltimore Hire Power was unresponsive to requests for post-award materials. Funds were re-allocated to Baltimore Station.
- **Gather Baltimore - \$10,000**  
Gather Baltimore was unresponsive to requests for post-award materials. Funds were re-allocated to Pigtown Main Streets (\$5,000) and Baltimore Development Corporation (\$5,000).
- **Westport Market - \$10,000**  
The Westport Market was unable to run in the 2017 season due to lack of volunteer support. Funds were reallocated to Baltimore Development Corporation.

**The full Year-End FY17 reports from all Food Access Mini-Grantees follow in the next section.**



**South Baltimore Gateway Food Access Mini-Grant FY17  
 Baltimore Station Biannual Reporting Template  
 Due January 15, 2017 and July 15, 2017**

**Progress on Scope of Services**

<b>Project Area</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Performance Measures/Outputs</b>	<b>Complete</b>
Community Gardens / Urban Farms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create and maintain rooftop garden with lettuce and salad greens</li> <li>• Demonstrate safe urban farming practices to create informed community leaders and food advocates</li> <li>• Harvest and prepare crop to be used for meals</li> <li>• Educate residents in composting to instill environmental stewardship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 138 people with increased access to healthy food</li> </ul>	223 people with increased access to healthy food
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14 people taking part in Food Justice Community Conversation</li> </ul>	14 people taking part in Food Justice Community Conversation
Nutrition Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish nutritional education and cooking classes for residents</li> <li>• Train and support residents in healthy, simple, and affordable recipes using local produce and take-home cookbooks</li> <li>• Educate at-risk residents (high BP, diabetes, etc.) of healthy food choices and recipes</li> <li>• Conduct a field trip to local farmers markets for residents to purchase ingredients for a nutritional education class; encourage budgeting and healthy choices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 weekly educational and cooking classes</li> </ul>	12 weekly educational and cooking classes
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 people educated</li> </ul>	40 people educated
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 138 people reached with information about healthy food</li> </ul>	223 people with increased information about healthy food
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14 people taking part in Food Justice Community Conversation</li> </ul>	14 people taking part in Food Justice Community Conversation

**What have been the major successes and/or challenges of this project?**

The project has continued to be void of any major challenges. An unanticipated obstacle has been ensuring the rooftop garden is not over exposed to sun. Even with daily watering via sprinkler, it has been difficult as we move into the warmer summer months. Next season we plan to research shading or hydroponic options.

Overall response and attendance to the garden duties and nutritional classes has been good. However long-term participation due to scheduling conflicts, resident turnover, and loss of engagement surface occasionally. We hope to work on different means of engagement.

**Have there been any major changes in the organization or project that would require changes to the scope of services?**

Not at this time

**Please describe a success story of your project.**

The resident field trip to the market was a successful experience. Alongside TBS's Food Service Manager, the residents went through the shopping and purchasing experience which included pricing out ingredients and supplies for an evening meal. The trip familiarized residents with healthy eating choices, necessary equipment, price comparisons, and encouraged budgeting which supports the residents on their journey toward self-sufficiency.

Total grant: \$4,000

Total spent to date: \$4,000



**South Baltimore Gateway Food Access Mini-Grant FY17  
Civic Works (Real Food Farm) Biannual Reporting Template  
Due January 15, 2017 and July 15, 2017**

**Progress on Scope of Service**

<b>Project Area</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Performance Goals</b>	<b>Cumulative End of Grant Progress</b>
Farmers Markets and Farm Stands	Increase number of farmers markets in Southwest Baltimore	1 Weekly Mobile Farmers Market stop in each of 3 Southwest Baltimore neighborhoods:	Our weekly farmers markets began the week of April 24 <sup>th</sup> . Since then we have hosted over 100 markets on the Westside of Baltimore. With our additional markets on the westside, our June 2017 sales total increased \$2,580.94 from June 2016.
	Increase access to fresh, healthy, locally grown produce in targeted southwest areas of Baltimore	Cherry Hill, Pigtown, and Carroll Park + 3 more weekly farmers markets created in Southwest Baltimore	
	Increase jobs at farmers markets for residents in the west/southwest area of Baltimore	250 people with increased access to healthy food	
		3 local residents hired on as Mobile Market Crew	Our team increased by 3 AmeriCorps members for the 2017 season.
Community Garden/Urban Farm	Increase distribution opportunities for urban farms	3 urban farms gain new distribution opportunity	We increased our purchasing from our local partner farms significantly. Purchasing almost twice as much produce as we did in the 2016 season.

	Train and support community residents interested in farming and food access	45 people taking part in Food Justice Community Conversation	We've hosted 7 community conversations with an estimated 155 participants.
Nutrition Education	Increase education around healthy food choice and meal preparation in Southwest Baltimore communities	12 cooking demonstrations at Mobile Farmers Market stops = 120 people with increased access to healthy meal prep and nutrition education	We hosted 12 cooking demonstrations since May and will continue to perform more demos throughout the season. All market stops have had a demo featured onsite thus far.
		Mobile Farmers Market Crew visit 4 event/festivals in southwest Baltimore = nutrition education provided for 200 people	We attended the annual UMBC Health and Community Fair, 2 Community Dinners in the Hollins Market Neighborhood, and a Community Celebration in the Pigtown Neighborhood.



What have been the major successes and/or challenges of your project?

A major success of the program would be rolling out 10 new weekly market locations. We are now able to serve even more Baltimore City residents with our fresh market operation. We have forged 10 new partnerships and nearly doubled our purchases from other partner farms.

A challenge this program faced was finding a suitable vehicle within our budget. This took a bit more time and discernment than originally planned however we ultimately were able to purchase a vehicle and rolled the market out at the onset of the 2017 season.

Have there been any major changes in the organization or project that would require a revision to the scope of services?

No, we fully intend on continuing to operate both our East and West side Mobile Farmers Market programs until the need for such a program is eliminated.

Please describe a success story from the project.

For the first two months of our westside operation, we have received such positive feedback from community members who are overjoyed to finally see fresh produce in their neighborhoods. As we've met new friends and supporters we've been able to introduce new produce items to many of them and enjoy sharing our own favorite recipes with them. While this is just the start of our first season in these neighborhoods, we already have dozens of repeat customers. We are grateful for all of our community partners who help make each market stop a success. They include: Creative City Public Charter, Penrose Management Co, SAFE Center, Baltimore Toolbank, Farm Alliance of Baltimore City, the Center for Urban Families, the Southwest Partnership, No Boundaries Coalition, UMB Community Engagement Center, Pauls Place, Pigtown Farmers Market and more. As stated above, we truly look forward to growing each of these partnerships in the many years to come!

Total grant funding: \$10,000

Total paid to-date: \$0

Total spent to date: \$10,000



**South Baltimore Gateway Food Access Mini-Grant FY17  
 Maryland Food Bank Biannual Reporting Template  
 Due January 15, 2017 and July 15, 2017**

**Progress on Scope of Services**

<b>Project Area</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Performance Goals</b>	<b>Semi-Annual Outputs (as of 1/15/17)</b>	<b>Cumulative End of Grant Progress</b>
School Pantry Program	Support Maryland Food Bank's School Pantry Program in the South Baltimore Gateway	Distribute 155,000 lbs. of food to 5 school pantries	Distributed 65,000 pounds of food.	Distributed 173,770 pounds of food
		Provide approximately 1,300 households with access to food during the nine-month school year.	Provided 750 households with access to food.	Provided 1,500 households with access to food.

**What have been the major successes and/or challenges of this project?**

During this reporting period, the Maryland Food Bank distributed more than 173,000 pounds of food to the following five schools pantries supported in part by the Baltimore City Health Department’s South Baltimore Gateway Food Access mini-grant: Charles Carroll Barrister Elementary, George Washington Elementary, Thomas Jefferson Elementary/Middle; Sharp-Leadenhall Elementary, and Lakeland Elementary. Of the 65,000 pounds distributed, the distribution of 36,000 pounds – or 30,000 meals – was leveraged by funding from Baltimore City Health Department. During this reporting period, funding from Baltimore City Health Department has helped us exceed our projected goal of distributing 155,000 pounds of food to these five schools by 11 percent.

**Have there been any major changes in the organization or project that would require changes to the scope of services?**

There have been no changes in the organization that would require changes to the scope of services. We have distributed 173,000 pounds of food during this grant period – 36,000 pounds of which was leveraged by Baltimore City Health Department Funding – and have thus met and exceeded our goal with this grant funding.

**Please describe a success story of your project.**

We consistently hear positive feedback from our school pantry partners and clients:

“The School Pantry Program helps a lot of people who just don’t have the money to get by. A lot of children come here, asking for food when they need it. And what’s great is that the pantry doesn’t just feed them – it brings up their attendance rate and helps them focus on school. Schools not involved should get involved with this program – it’s working, it helps, it’s wonderful.”

– *Deborah Lucas, School Pantry Coordinator at Sharp Leadenhall*

**Total grant:** \$10,000

**Total paid to date:** \$6,288

**Total spent to date:** \$10,000



**South Baltimore Gateway Food Access Mini-Grant FY17  
Paul's Place Biannual Reporting Template  
Due January 15, 2017 and July 15, 2017  
Progress on Scope of Services**

<b>Project Area</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Performance Goals</b>	<b>Cumulative End of Grant Progress</b>
Nutrition Education	Kids in the Kitchen delivers nutrition education and hands-on cooking experience for 40 children per semester in four cohorts of 10 students each that meet twice per month- a total of 60 students for the full school year. 60 families comprised of 250 individuals will receive weekend food from Kids in the Kitchen	64 educational workshops	64 educational workshops completed
		60 people educated	60 people educated
		250 people reached with information about healthy food	41 families, for a total of 175 people reached
Anti-Hunger	60 families comprised of 250 individuals will receive weekend food from Kids in the Kitchen	250 people with increased access to healthy food	41 families, for a total of 175 families
Farmers Markets and Farm Stands	Paul's Place will expand the Pigtown Community farmers market, now in its second season, by increasing the number of vendors selling fresh produce and other healthy foods from 8 in 2016 to 10 in 2017.  The Maryland Farmers Market Association will operate a central transfer hub, at which market attendees can shop with SNAP and access Maryland Market Money, up to \$5 per individual per week to match WIC, SNAP, and FMNP	300 people per week with increased access to healthy food	341 average people per market week
		30 people taking part in Food Justice Community Conversation	23 people taking part in Food Justice Community Conversation

**What have been the major successes and/or challenges of this project?**

We are pleased to report an increase in attendance at the Pigtown Community Farmers Market. Our outreach efforts have been successful in bringing more people to the weekly market. The first two weeks we far exceeded our goal of 300 per week, and are hopeful the trend will continue.

Another success is that we have increased community knowledge about food justice and food access opportunities through the Community Food Justice Conversation and interactions with other groups in the community. Twenty-three individuals from the Paul's Place Women's Group, Men's Group and Ambassador Volunteers participated in the conversation.

The increased outreach has translated to more attendees, higher sales and increased food equity in Pigtown.

The Kids in the Kitchen program provided nutrition and cooking education to children, and we are delighted with the students' progress and increased comfort in the kitchen. Kids have also learned how to cook simple, healthy, affordable meals for their families. By design, these meals are prepared in 30 minutes or less. The kids learn cooking skills and how to prepare nutritious meals. They also gain increased independence and responsibility.

**Have there been any major changes in the organization or project that would require changes to the scope of services?**

There have been no major changes to the programs that require change to the scope of services.

**Please describe a success story of your project.**

Kids in the Kitchen student participants completed a survey to report on what they have gained from the program. One middle school girl who began the program reluctant about learning to cook was pondering her answers and announced that she didn't like healthy food. After a few minutes of thinking, she said, "Actually, I do. I really liked what we ate in Kids in the Kitchen. And I know how to cook it."

We know other students shared her experience and were able to share their new cooking skills with their families and increase their comfort with healthy eating.

Total grant: \$14,000

Total paid to-date: \$4,544.62

Total spent to date: \$12,894.45



**South Baltimore Gateway Food Access Mini-Grant FY17**

**MedStar Biannual Reporting Template**

**Due January 15, 2017 and July 15, 2017**

**Progress on Scope of Services**

Project Area	Activities	Performance Goals	Semi-Annual Outputs (as of 1/15/17)	Cumulative End of Grant Progress
Nutrition Education	Trips to the AHA cooking kitchen	18 educational workshops	7 educational workshops completed	7 educational workshops completed
	On-site cooking demonstrations within the schools. Parents will be able to sample recipes			
	For the cooking demonstrations that will be held for parents and community members, the first 20 participants will receive bags of ingredients and copies of the days recipe so they can duplicate the dish at home			
	During each activity the participants will be taught about the health indicators for each ingredient, the importance of eating healthy and different way the items can be prepared	108 people educated during AHA cooking kitchen trips	59 people educated during the AHA cooking kitchen trip	59 people educated during the AHA cooking kitchen trip
		300+ people reached with information about healthy foods (this number includes parents, staff, and students)	Over 450 people reached via workshops, cooking trips, and back to school night information table.	Over 450 people reached via workshops, cooking trips, and back to school night information table.

What have been the major successes and/or challenges of this project?

The program content has been very well received. Participants learned how to prepare and consume healthy foods that they had not been exposed to in the past. The greatest challenge is consistent access to healthy food. Participants appreciated the concept of grocery delivery but wanted to be able to shop for themselves.

Have there been any major changes in the organization or project that would require changes to the scope of services? Please provide a justification for any requested changes in the scope of work or schedule for the project. If a time-only extension is requested, please provide details here.

We respectfully request a 6 month extension to complete the program. Two key leadership positions were vacated prior the initiation of the second half of the program. We were not able to backfill the posts fast enough to engage the schools for the Spring term.

Please describe a success story of your project.

The program content has been very well received. Participants learned how to prepare and consume healthy foods that they had not been exposed to in the past.

Total grant: \$3,000

Total paid to date:

Total spent to date: \$1,018



**South Baltimore Gateway Food Access Mini-Grant FY17**  
**Cherry Hill Development Corporation Biannual Reporting Template**  
**Due January 15, 2017 and July 15, 2017**

**Progress on Scope of Services**

<b>Project Area</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Performance Goals</b>	<b>Semi-annual outputs (as of 1/15/17)</b>	<b>Cumulative End of Grant Progress</b>
Nutrition Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host a series of youth and adult cooking classes to promote healthy eating in Cherry Hill</li> </ul>	40 youth educated in 2016	15 Youth with instructor C. Forman	25 additional youth by end of Grant
		25 adults educated by June 2017		25 adults will receive cooking classes by 12/1/17
Community Garden/Urban Farm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase access to healthy foods and promote healthy eating habits by promoting CHUG</li> <li>• Increase community interest for urban</li> </ul>	20 people with increased access to healthy food in 2016 as measured by garden sales	75 people had access to healthy foods	150 additional people had access to healthy food in the community. This does not include sales to Farmer's Alliance

	farming/gardening in the South Baltimore Gateway neighborhood of Cherry Hill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Train community leaders and members on urban farming and small scale gardening</li> </ul>	20 community leaders/members trained on urban farming and small scale gardening by July 2017		Approximately 40 community leaders were trained in urban gardening
“”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure continuity of garden operations by compensating one garden manager assistant with a stipend from the Summer 2016 season to the early Summer 2017 growing season</li> <li>• Increase yield and numbers of families serviced via new skills learned by attending the 2017 Cultivate the Chesapeake Food shed Conference</li> <li>• Expand the CHUG growing season by purchasing various supplies and equipment for over wintering, etc.</li> <li>• Purchase office supplies necessary to adhere to City of Baltimore acquisition requirements</li> </ul>	110 families with increased access to healthy food via crops ready for sale by June 2017		225 families have had access to healthy food via crops sold thus far . It is anticipated that another 75 will have access before the grant ends.  Adding hoop houses has expanded CHUG growing season  Office supplies has been purchased to implement acquisition requirements

What have been the major successes and/or challenges of this project?

We consider a major success the increased and improved relationships with the Cherry Hill community, Farmer's Alliance members and community schools. Our biggest challenge has been securing materials and equipment for presentation for the community at the garden. This would include lack of restroom facilities or a Port- A- potties and a sound system.

Have there been any major changes in the organization or project that would require changes to the scope of services? Please provide a justification for any requested changes in the scope of work or schedule for the project. If a time-only extension is requested, please provide details here.

The Cherry Hill Development Corporation had requested an extension of the grant to complete the project because of the late start for the garden this growing season with changes to the Garden advisory Committee. (Please see request for Extension of Time letter.

Please describe a success story of your project.

This year, the building of the hoop house and the increase in the variety and quantity of produce available to the community and the community participation has served as a success story for the Cherry Hill Urban Garden in Cherry Hill.

**Total grant: \$14,000**  
**Total paid to date: \$0**  
**Total spent to date:**