
OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE-BALTIMORE

THE FUEL THAT DRIVES REFORM

2014 GRANTS
& DONORS

AUDACIOUS THINKING FOR LASTING CHANGE.

We can see it.

We have a vision of Baltimore where every child can be healthy and prosperous. We see a city where no one lives in poverty or is held back because of racial discrimination.

We see Baltimore as a beautiful city where opportunity is abundant and we can all thrive. We can make this change together.

THE VISION

We know this vision can be realized. We see progress everyday.

OSI-Baltimore was created in 1998 to find answers to significant problems that plague our city, with the idea that many of the solutions found here could be transferable to other places around the country.

With an advisory board composed of the region's foremost leaders, practitioners, and scholars—and a staff of exceptional professionals who are leaders in their fields—we analyzed the root causes of

Baltimore's problems. From there, we identified three interconnected issues that must be addressed if we are to build a thriving city that allows all of its residents full voice and opportunity.

Even at the very beginning of our work, we knew that big change for Baltimore takes a combination of audacious ideas, pragmatic solutions, and persistence.

We continue today, working to create a different city. We use a broad set of tools—grantmaking, education, advocacy, technical assistance and investment—to take promising solutions to scale. Together with community partners, policy makers, and our donors, we are witnessing significant progress in areas that many considered unsolvable. Right now, a more equitable future for all is developing before us.

To make this vision a reality...

We help youth stay connected to and engaged in school and on the road to success.

We tackle drug addiction by making treatment readily accessible and decreasing stigma.

We reduce incarceration for youth and adults, curtailing the spiraling costs of prisons and jails and the damage it imposes on families and communities.

We build a growing corps of individuals working on the ground, directly with the community. Over the past 16 years, we have supported 160 Baltimore Community Fellows—dedicated social entrepreneurs and visionaries. Fellows change lives directly every single day.

THE CHALLENGES

Audacious thinking for lasting change.

We are actively pursuing solutions to three interconnected issues that have challenged Baltimore's progress. In addition, we have created a network of audacious individuals working on the ground to inspire communities and implement new ideas.

The Drug Addiction Treatment program seeks to

- Create more access to appropriate and innovative treatment and integrate addiction care into primary care.
- Close the addiction treatment gap for low-income patients by taking advantage of the opportunities of health care reform.
- Reduce stigma and remove barriers associated with addiction.

The Baltimore Community Fellowships program continues to

- Recruit, select and support dynamic, resourceful and talented social entrepreneurs to become Baltimore Community Fellows.
- Build an active corps of individuals committed to revitalizing under-served neighborhoods by strengthening a growing Community Fellows alumni network, now 160 people strong.

The Education and Youth Development program aims to

- Keep children connected to school from pre-k through high school graduation.
- Support reform efforts to create "high value" high schools.
- Expand opportunities for learning when school is not in session.

The Criminal and Juvenile Justice program seeks to

- Reduce Baltimore and Maryland's jail and prison population by reforming arrest, pre-trial detention, parole and probation policies that are discriminatory or are unnecessary to protect public safety.
- Advance policies and practices, including adequate public funding, for the successful re-entry of people with criminal and juvenile records.

What does change mean for Baltimore?

Working in partnership with the private and public sectors, we catalyze, and take to scale, lasting change in Baltimore every day.

Highlights of this past year include:

Education & Youth Development

- After a rigorous multi-year process that engaged educators, school administrators and citizens state-wide, the Maryland State Board of Education adopted new discipline regulations and released guidelines to reduce out-of-school suspensions and eliminate the disparities associated with their use. OSI-Baltimore provided the funding and leadership to press for reform, co-chaired the workgroup that drafted the new state guidelines, and testified at state hearings to make this happen.
- OSI-Baltimore launched the Center for Positive School Climate at the University of Maryland to provide training to principals and teachers

throughout the state on alternatives to suspension that have been demonstrated to work.

- With the advocacy of our grantees and staff, Baltimore City Schools have identified attendance and school discipline as two key focus areas. Baltimore City Schools' new CEO tracks suspensions and absences in all city schools, appointed a staff member responsible for tracking students' attendance, and is putting together a multi-agency leadership team to reduce the too-high number of school-based arrests.

Criminal & Juvenile Justice

- OSI-Baltimore grantees and state agency partners successfully argued for the release of over 70 people serving life sentences after a Maryland Court of Appeals decision held that jury instructions recited during their criminal trials were unconstitutional.

THE PROGRESS

To make transitions seamless, OSI-Baltimore supported the University of Maryland School of Social Work to develop home plans with these individuals, many now senior citizens, and connect them to re-entry organizations that provide job training and other important skills they will need. None of the released individuals have returned to prison.

- Our grantees continue to chip away at Maryland's policy of prosecuting youth as adults. A new policy will increase the number of youth in Baltimore City who are eligible to be held in a youth detention center, instead of an adult jail, as they await their transfer hearings.

Drug Addiction Treatment

- OSI-Baltimore convened and developed a partnership to encourage state and local agencies to initiate a pilot project to train 500 Baltimore police officers to carry

Naloxone—giving them the tools to reverse heroin and prescription drug overdoses and save lives.

- Our early support of a new process designed to help primary care providers identify and refer individuals in need of drug addiction treatment has leveraged more than \$11 million in federal and foundation support to increase early intervention and treatment for adults and adolescents in Maryland.

Baltimore Community Fellowships

- In November, a selection committee, comprised of OSI-Baltimore Board members and community leaders, chose 11 new Baltimore Community Fellows who now join a growing corps of talented, entrepreneurial individuals working directly with residents of our city.

2014 GRANTS

2014 GRANTS
**CRIMINAL & JUVENILE
JUSTICE**



The Criminal and Juvenile Justice program works to reduce the use of incarceration and its social and economic costs and to promote justice systems that are fair, used as a last resort, and offer second chances.

Advocates for Children and Youth

\$83,000 over one year to support its efforts to ensure that committed youth and youth charged as adults can return successfully to school and/or employment

Civic Works

\$100,000 over one year to support the Baltimore Center for Green Careers in its efforts to create job training and employment opportunities for individuals involved in the criminal justice system

Community Law in Action

\$140,000 over one year to engage in community organizing, public education, and advocacy efforts to reduce the number of youth who are automatically prosecuted as adults and held in adult jails pre-trial

Episcopal Community Services of Maryland

\$75,000 over one year to provide re-entry services to Baltimore city residents who were formerly incarcerated

Fusion Partnerships

\$100,000 over one year to support the Ingoma Foundation's Youth Unlocked campaign to reduce youth arrests, particularly the arrests of African-American youth

**WE'RE BUILDING
A FOUNDATION FOR
A BETTER FUTURE.**

Fusion Partnerships

\$50,000 over one year to support the Maryland Restorative Justice Initiative's efforts to reform parole policies affecting prisoners serving long-term sentences in Maryland

Job Opportunities Task Force

\$70,000 over one year to conduct communications and advocacy efforts to reduce barriers to employment for people with criminal records

Justice Policy Institute

\$150,000 over one year to engage in research, policy advocacy and communications efforts to promote criminal justice reform in Maryland

Living Classrooms Foundation

\$100,000 over one year to provide re-entry services to East Baltimore residents who were formerly incarcerated

Pretrial Justice Institute

\$15,000 over six months to develop a portrait project in support of bail reform in Maryland

JFA Institute

\$65,000 over one year to conduct research and technical assistance to reduce the incarcerated population in Maryland, the majority of whom returns to Baltimore City

The Regents of the University of California, Los Angeles

\$125,000 over one year to enable the Center for Policing Equity to conduct research, training and policy reform in partnership with the Baltimore Police Department to advance impartial policing practices

University of Maryland Baltimore Foundation

\$134,157 over one year to support the Prisoner Advocacy and Re-Entry Support Project of the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law Clinical Program

2014 GRANTS
DRUG ADDICTION TREATMENT



The Drug Addiction Treatment program works to increase access to high quality drug addiction treatment for Baltimore residents, especially the uninsured and underinsured.

Behavioral Health Leadership Institute

\$90,000 over one year to implement and conduct a formal evaluation of a buprenorphine treatment program and assist primary care practices to provide integrated substance use disorder treatment

Behavioral Health System Baltimore

\$25,000 over one year to develop a pilot program to train and equip Baltimore City police officers to reverse opioid overdoses using naloxone

Fusion Partnerships

\$72,500 over one year to support the outreach, awareness-raising, advocacy and mobilization activities of the Baltimore Student Harm Reduction Coalition

Maryland Professionals for Quality Addiction Services

\$200,000 over one year to provide general support to the Maryland Addictions Directors Council

RECOGNIZING THAT ADDICTION IS A CHRONIC DISEASE, THE PROGRAM AIMS TO ENSURE ADDICTION TREATMENT IS **INTEGRATED INTO THE PUBLIC HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.**

Maryland Women's Coalition for Health Care Reform

\$300,000 over two years to support its education and advocacy activities to provide a consumer-focused voice supporting sound implementation of the Affordable Care Act and related state provisions, including comprehensive coverage of addiction treatment

National Council on Alcoholism & Drug Dependence-Maryland Chapter

\$225,000 over one year to provide general support

Pharmacists' Education and Advocacy Council

\$40,000 over one year to train health professionals, primarily pharmacists, to conduct an education campaign to remove stigma from addiction, place the disease in a chronic medical context, and increase demand for early treatment

Your Health Network

\$150,000 over six months to provide marketing, operations, and administrative support to facilitate preparation for a significant ramp-up period as the Network expands its services for patients in 2015

2014 GRANTS EDUCATION & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



The Education and Youth Development program aims to ensure that all of Baltimore's children grow to be successful workers, engaged and informed citizens, and supportive family and community members.

Advocates for Children and Youth

\$219,000 over two years to support its efforts to reform school discipline policies, increase education funding and equity, and decrease the number of youth detained

Association of Baltimore Area Grantmakers

\$22,000 over two years to provide general support and project support for its Education Funders' Affinity Group (co-funded by Special Opportunities)

American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Maryland

\$170,000 over two years to advocate for effective public schools with adequate resources and facilities so that all of Maryland's children, especially those who are poor and reside in Baltimore, have access to a high quality education

Center for Supportive Schools

\$120,000 over two years, as a part of OSI-Baltimore's High Value High School Initiative, to implement the Center's Peer Group Connection and Achievement Mentor programs at Mergenthaler Vocational Technical High School for freshman and select sophomore students

Child and Family Policy Center

\$20,000 over one year to support Attendance Works' effort to study and recommend attendance policies and measures that will guide the set of indicators the Maryland State Department of Education uses to assess the performance of Maryland's public schools

Family League of Baltimore City

\$112,000 over one year to support the efforts of the Family League, Baltimore City Public Schools, and the members of the Baltimore Student Attendance Collaborative to reduce the very high levels of chronic absence among Baltimore City Public School children

FreeState Legal Project

\$55,000 over one year to reduce the bullying of and disparate impact of school discipline on LGBTQ students in Baltimore City and other Maryland school districts

Maryland Disability Law Center

\$65,000 over one year to create lasting, systemic practices that remove barriers to regular attendance for students with disabilities in Baltimore City Public schools

Maryland Disability Law Center

\$37,000 over one year to reduce the disproportionate impact of exclusionary discipline practices on Maryland students with

disabilities through advocacy, education, technical assistance, and coalition building

Safe and Sound: Baltimore's Campaign for Children and Youth

\$125,000 over two years to support the Maryland Out-of-School Time Network's leadership development and advocacy program for small, community-based youth programs in Baltimore

The Intersection

\$25,000 over one year to provide general support

University of Maryland Baltimore Foundation

\$418,000 over one year to help launch the Center for Positive School Climate and Supportive Discipline at the University of Maryland Baltimore's School of Social Work Community Outreach Service Program

Wide Angle Youth Media

\$150,000 over two years to train high school youth to develop, produce and disseminate media campaigns to improve attendance and suspension rates in Baltimore City public schools



The Baltimore Community Fellowships program addresses the challenges facing Baltimore's most needy communities by identifying and supporting social innovators of unusual promise and providing them with the ingredients to ensure their ideas have a stable foundation and long-term viability.

Van Brooks

A former high school football player who became paralyzed from the neck down, Van Brooks will emphasize to youth in the Franklin Square/Poppleton communities the importance of education and having an alternate career path. Through the Safe Alternative Foundation for Education, Brooks will provide youth with afterschool and extracurricular activities to help develop the leadership, life skills and additional tools necessary to take advantage of opportunities that will help them achieve success.

Shawn Burnett

Growing up, Shawn Burnett used art as a way to free himself from his neighborhood and express himself. Now, he wants to give other young people that same opportunity. Through his Walks of Arts organization, Burnett will use art as a tool to have an impact on the cognitive development, emotional health and social lives of underserved youth in Baltimore City.

BE THE CAUSE THAT HAS A POSITIVE EFFECT.

Brian Francoise

In partnership with the Morgan Community Mile Initiative, Brian Francoise will establish the Sister Neighborhood Arts Program (SNAP!) to create a civic theater ensemble that will stimulate cultural organizing, dialogue and healing between two historically segregated neighborhoods in Northeast Baltimore.

Catherine Gonzalez

Studies show that students in for-profit colleges are more likely to leave school with greater student debt loans and are more likely to default on their student loan debt obligations. In partnership with Civil Justice, Inc., Catherine Gonzalez will address and alleviate the impact of predatory student loan practices on Baltimore city residents.

Dwayne Johnson

Dwayne Johnson understands the struggle to find employment and housing after being incarcerated. In partnership with the Union Baptist Headstart Center, Johnson will establish the From Prison to Man of the House Initiative to provide essential housing and employment services, as well as mentoring to formerly incarcerated men returning to the Upton community.

Charlotte Keniston

After three growing seasons, Charlotte Keniston's Pigtown Food for Thought Initiative has not only created access to fresh food but has also created lasting friendships in the community. Keniston will expand her work by re-imagining the Washington Village Pigtown community as a place to have access to healthy food through

2014 GRANTS
**BALTIMORE COMMUNITY
FELLOWSHIPS**



Each fellow receives a stipend of \$60,000 over 18 months.

community gardening, the creation of a neighborhood farm stand, food and nutrition education, and a neighborhood mural arts project.

Zina Makar

Many Baltimore residents accused of a crime spend long stretches in jail awaiting trial because of an initial step in the criminal justice process: the bail hearing. Zina Makar will work in partnership with the Baltimore City Office of the Public Defender to establish Pipeline to Habeas—an initiative that aims to provide indigent defendants denied due process at the time of their bail hearings with equal access to justice.

Vincent Purcell

Vincent Purcell, an engineer-turned social designer, will establish Boomspace—an entrepreneurial development and makerspace social design initiative that combines technology and workforce development to give opportunities to young adults, ages 18-25, in East Baltimore. Purcell will partner with organizations that have a strong history of working with people who have barriers to employment.

WE'RE COMMITTED TO SPARKING INNOVATION THAT LASTS.

Renita Seabrook

Renita Seabrook, a strong believer in rehabilitation, will partner with Alternative Directions to establish Helping Others 2 Win, an experiential learning environment that will give pre- and post-release female offenders the opportunity to benefit from evidenced-based programming to support their reentry into the community. The women will work on their self-esteem with mentors, learn decision-making techniques, and gain computer literacy and job training skills.

Agatha So

Agatha So will partner with the Southeast Community Development Corporation to establish a path to homeownership for undocumented Latino immigrants in Baltimore City. The would-be homeowners have steady jobs or small businesses and pay taxes, but are not qualified to

buy a home because they do not have a social security number. The program will include home-buying counseling and mortgage lending opportunities.

Roxanne E. Umphery

Roxanne E. Umphery will partner with the Maryland Restorative Justice Initiative to establish Powerful Peers. The project will organize and train volunteers in effective strategies to help those returning from prison to make a successful transition to stable living situations.

2014 GRANTS
SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

CASA de Maryland

\$180,000 over two years to foster multiracial dialogue and strengthen relationships among Baltimore's low-income immigrant and African-American communities

Catholic Legal

Immigration Network

\$250,000 over one year to provide legal services in Maryland to immigrants who are unaccompanied minors (co-funded by the Open Society Foundations' US Programs' Special Opportunity Fund)

2014
DONORS

We thank our donors for their generous support. Their gifts inspire us and provide us with the fuel we need to continue to drive reform.

We are pleased to acknowledge donors who have made investments in our work between January 1 and December 31, 2014, with special recognition to our founder George Soros and Open Society Foundations for matching gifts listed.

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Your financial gift to OSI-Baltimore helps create opportunity, justice, and economic stability for those in our city who need it most. We tackle Baltimore's most challenging issues.

We welcome all gifts of every level. Every gift is matched by our founder George Soros through the Open Society Foundations. Our donors share a common goal: to revitalize Baltimore and provide opportunity for all. They realize that, by investing in OSI-Baltimore, they play a vital role in improving our city's future.

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or call us at 410.234.1091.

OSI-BALTIMORE

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**THAT STARTS
SOMETHING.**

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