

OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE-BALTIMORE

BALTIMORE RISING: **THE FUEL THAT DRIVES REFORM**

2015 GRANTS
& DONORS



OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE-BALTIMORE

osibaltimore.org

Cover Photo Credit: © Andrew Burton/Getty

Our beloved Baltimore is a vital American city with a grand history and a wonderfully diverse population. But it faces tremendous challenges. The Baltimore Uprising that began in April 2015 brought many of the city's deeply rooted problems to the surface and created a unique opportunity to address them and bring meaningful, lasting change.

We believe in a renewed Baltimore, where opportunity is abundant and all people can thrive. For this vision of Baltimore to be realized, we all have to work together.

THE VISION

Real change for Baltimore.

OSI-Baltimore has been rooted in Baltimore since 1997, its staff and advisory board living and working with the broader community to understand and assess the city's challenges and move toward solutions. In many ways, the uprising brought the issues that OSI-Baltimore has focused on since its founding into sharper relief.

We seek to eliminate harmful or discriminatory policies, practices, and beliefs that hold residents, especially people of color, in concentrated poverty, and to provide a blueprint for other American urban centers to do the same. All people must have

the mobility, access to resources, and optimism to realize their full potential and participate actively in the social, economic, and political life of the city and state.

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 residents full voice and opportunity.

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

After the Baltimore Uprising, we have continued 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 and policy makers, we are witnessing significant progress in areas that many considered unsolvable. A more equitable future for all is developing before us.

*To make this vision
a reality...*

We help youth feel safe, welcomed, and supported in schools with the resources they need to succeed into adulthood.

We tackle drug addiction by addressing it as a public health issue, to minimize the harms of substance use.

We reduce incarceration for youth and adults, using a lens of racial equity to reduce 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 18 years, we have supported 170 Baltimore Community Fellows—dedicated social entrepreneurs and visionaries. Fellows change lives directly every single day.

THE CHALLENGES

Audacious thinking for lasting change.

At Open Society Institute-Baltimore, we are actively pursuing solutions to three interconnected issues that challenge Baltimore's progress. In addition, we have created a network of social entrepreneurs working on the ground to change communities for the better. And last year, through the Baltimore Justice Fund, we supported interventions to respond to opportunities created by the uprising to advance racial justice, accountability, and community engagement.

Despite the challenges, we envision a thriving city, one that provides real opportunity for all children and adults, especially those who currently live in poverty and are held back because of racial discrimination.

We know this vision can be realized. We see progress every day.

The Criminal and Juvenile Justice program seeks to

- Reduce unnecessary and racially unjust arrests and pretrial incarceration for youth and adults.
- Reform sentencing policies to reduce the prison population safely.
- Remove barriers to successful reentry for formerly incarcerated youth and adults.

The Drug Addiction Treatment program seeks to

- Support robust implementation of health care reforms, with particular emphasis on marginalized populations.
- Support harm reduction policies to reduce the stigma associated with addiction and decrease the negative impact of substance use.
- Increase the strength and effectiveness of community voices calling for more accessible, high quality treatment.

The Education and Youth Development program aims to

- Reform and implement attendance and discipline policies and practices that keep students out of school and cause disparate education outcomes.
- Refocus, reduce, and ultimately eliminate school policing to decrease arrests and disparate treatment among student subgroups.

The Baltimore Community Fellowships Network continues to

- Recruit, select and support dynamic, resourceful and committed social entrepreneurs to become Baltimore Community Fellows.
- Build an active corps of individuals committed to revitalizing underserved neighborhoods by providing resources for a growing Community Fellows alumni body, now 170 individuals strong.
- Build relationships among the alumni network to foster collaboration and promote new initiatives.

In 2015, we created the Baltimore Justice Fund to support immediate interventions in response to the Baltimore Uprising. The Fund was created to

- Support focused interventions to improve police accountability and police-community relationships.
- Reduce the number of Baltimoreans caught up in the criminal justice system.
- Engage Marylanders, especially young people, in advocacy for programs and policies to increase opportunity and racial justice.

* The ad-hoc fund will be phased out.

THE PROGRESS

What does change mean for Baltimore?

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

Highlights of this past year include:

Criminal and Juvenile Justice

- An OSI-Baltimore grantee supported reentry services to more than 130 people serving life sentences who had been released as a result of the Maryland Court of Appeals' *People vs. Unger* decision. Nearly all of the returning citizens stayed out of the criminal justice system, demonstrating that long term prisoners, including older prisoners, can be safely released without jeopardizing public safety.
- Following up on earlier work to do away with Maryland's policy of prosecuting youth as adults, in 2016 OSI-Baltimore, with Community Law in Action, helped educate the public and legislators about the negative effects of placing youth in adult jails, resulting in a new law that prohibits holding youth charged as adults in adult jails.

- OSI-Baltimore dedicated funding to Baltimore organizations on the ground that are organizing and implementing strategies to bring about police reform.

Drug Addiction Treatment

- OSI-Baltimore supported an initiative to train Baltimore City Police to recognize the signs of an overdose and administer naloxone, a life-saving medication. Nearly 2,000 police officers are trained and now carry naloxone, and they have reversed more than 30 overdoses in the first few months of the program.
- We partnered with the Baltimore City Health Department and Behavioral Health System Baltimore to create a public education campaign that provides important information about overdoses and assistance to prevent them, creates opportunities for local physicians to help patients reduce their risk of overdose, and establishes new pathways to treatment.

Education and Youth Development

- We continued to focus on the inequitable impact that out-of-school suspensions have on students of color, particularly black males, thus feeding the "School to Prison Pipeline." The Coalition to Reform School Discipline brought together Baltimore advocates around school police policy, student arrests, and disparate treatment among student subgroups.
- After supporting school discipline policy changes, OSI created the Center for Positive School Climate at the University of Maryland School of Social Work to implement the policy changes by training educators.

THE PROGRESS

- In the fourth year of the high value high schools initiative, we supported the opening of Bard Early College High School and the integration of a new YouthBuild program into Ben Franklin High School. These efforts create engaging experiences to help students reach their full potential.

Baltimore Community Fellowships Network

- In November, a selection committee, composed of OSI-Baltimore Board members and community leaders, selected 10 new Baltimore Community Fellows that now join a growing corps of talented, entrepreneurial individuals working directly with residents of our city.
- We also capitalized on lessons learned from a Community Fellows Network Analysis, which sought to evaluate the program's impact on the lives of individual Fellows and on the city as a whole. As a result of the analysis, fellows are deepening their connections to one another, pooling their expertise and sharing knowledge—all in an effort to improve the lives of underserved communities and people in Baltimore.

Baltimore Justice Fund

- We funded 11 organizations founded by alumni of the OSI-Baltimore Community Fellowships Network that are working on such issues as police accountability, police-community relations, reducing the number of Baltimore residents in the criminal justice system, community advocacy, and conflict resolution and trauma-informed care training, among other things.
- We gave support to WYPR for “On the Watch,” a year-long series on police accountability and police-community relations.
- We granted funding to bolster the Baltimore Action Legal Team's community education, legal observation and representation, and bail support activities to advance police reform and accountability.

2015 GRANTS

2015 GRANTS
**CRIMINAL & JUVENILE
JUSTICE**



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

Fusion Partnerships

\$45,000 over one year to support the Ingoma Foundation's Youth Unlocked campaign to reduce youth arrests, particularly the arrests of African-American youth

Justice Policy Institute

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

**University of Maryland
Baltimore Foundation**

\$95,000 over one year to support the Prisoner Advocacy and Re-Entry Support Project of the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law

Job Opportunities Task Force

\$100,000 to support JOTF's communications and advocacy efforts to reduce barriers to employment for people with criminal records

Community Law in Action

\$140,000 over one year to engage in community organizing, public education, and advocacy efforts

WE ARE WORKING TO
**TRANSFORM THE POLICIES
AND PRACTICES THAT
ADVERSELY AFFECT SO
MANY OF OUR FELLOW
CITIZENS AND HOLD BACK
OUR REGION.**

to reduce the number of youth who are automatically prosecuted as adults and held in adult jails pre-trial

Civic Works

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

Advocates for Children and Youth

\$85,000 over one year to engage in research, public education, and advocacy efforts to advance juvenile justice reform in Maryland

Collaborative Solutions

\$7,500 over six months to support development and execution of the 3rd Maryland Statewide Reentry Symposium

Associated Black Charities

\$50,000 over one year to support the Baltimore Action Legal Team's community education, legal observation, legal representation and bail support activities

Community Conferencing Center

\$100,000 over two years to provide an effective community-based alternative to justice involvement for youth and young adults in Baltimore

2015 GRANTS
**CRIMINAL & JUVENILE
JUSTICE**



“OSI is an organization willing to pose the toughest questions and is more likely than other organizations to get in the system’s face and question the current approaches.”

– OSI Donor Ted Wiese

University of Maryland Foundation

\$50,000 over one year to support the Choice Program's job training and placement services for youth who are involved in the juvenile justice system

Living Classrooms Foundation

\$100,000 over one year to provide reentry services to East Baltimore residents who are formerly incarcerated

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

American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Maryland

\$150,000 over 18 months to advocate for increased police accountability and bring about equitable policing in Baltimore and Maryland

OPPORTUNITY FUND

CASA de Maryland

\$270,000 over 18 months to support the Campaign for Justice, Safety and Jobs

No Boundaries Coalition

\$25,000 over one year to advocate for reforms that improve police accountability and bring about effective community policing in Baltimore

Baltimore Algebra Project

\$50,000 over six months to support Baltimore United for Change in youth and community organizing in support of policing reforms in Baltimore

Behavioral Health Systems Baltimore

\$199,250 over one year to support the development and evaluation of a pre-booking diversion pilot program to reduce arrests and connect people with underlying substance use disorders to treatment and other supports

CLEMENCY

Living Classrooms Foundation

\$125,000 over one year to provide reentry services to returning citizens being released from federal prisons under Drug Minus Two

Center for Urban Families

\$125,000 over one year to provide reentry services to returning citizens being released from federal prisons under Drug Minus Two

2015 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
Systems Baltimore**

\$160,000 over one year to support educational and training activities to decrease the number of non-fatal and fatal opioid-related overdoses in Baltimore City by half over three years

**University of Maryland
Baltimore Foundation**

\$280,000 over two years to enable the School of Law Drug Policy and Public Health Strategies Clinic to improve Affordable Care Act implementation, behavioral health integration, and access to addiction treatment

**National Council on Alcoholism
& Drug Dependence-
Maryland Chapter**

\$200,000 over one year to provide general support

**Maryland Professionals for
Quality Addiction Services**

\$270,000 over 18 months to provide general support

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

Fusion Partnerships

\$63,000 over one year to support the outreach, advocacy and mobilization activities of the Baltimore Student Harm Reduction Coalition

Center for Popular Democracy

(jointly granted with Criminal & Juvenile Justice Program)
\$200,000 over 18 months to support Communities United expand organizing and leadership development efforts with formerly incarcerated community members and individuals impacted by drug addiction

**Behavioral Health
Systems Baltimore**

(jointly granted with Criminal & Juvenile Justice Program)
\$199,250 over one year to support the development and evaluation of LEAD, a pre-arrest diversion pilot program to reduce arrests and connect people with underlying substance use disorders to treatment and other supports

2015 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.

Family League of Baltimore City, Inc.

\$80,000 over one year to expand out-of-school-time programs in Community Schools

Family League of Baltimore City, Inc.

\$150,000 over one year to support the consolidation of several partners into a city-wide school climate collaborative focused on providing alternatives to suspension

FreeState Legal Project

up to \$70,000 over one year to reduce the bullying of and disparate impact of school discipline on LGBTQ students in Maryland, especially in Baltimore City, and to create a Baltimore City Youth Advisory Board

Holistic Life Foundation

\$25,000 over six months to document its school based curriculum and activities to enable its programs to be replicated and taken to scale

Maryland Disability Law Center

\$225,000 over 18 months to protect students with disabilities in Baltimore City public schools from school exclusion and other practices that compromise their access to education and out-of-school services

University of Baltimore Foundation

\$25,000 over one year to support the Truancy Court Project at the University of Baltimore School of Law Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts

University System of Maryland Foundation—The Choice Program

\$50,000 over nine months to support the creation of an engaging soft skills training course to prepare Baltimore City high school students for summer and year-round jobs

The University of Maryland Baltimore Foundation

\$400,000 over one year to support the Center for Positive School Climate and Supportive Discipline at the University of Maryland Baltimore School of Social Work Community Outreach Service Program



The Baltimore Community Fellowships Network addresses the challenges facing Baltimore's most underserved communities. The program identifies and supports social innovators of unusual promise and provides them with the ingredients to ensure their ideas have a stable foundation and long-term viability. Each fellow receives a stipend of \$60,000 over 18 months.

Hari P. Adhikari

Through the Baltimore Bhutanese Committee, translator Adhikari is working to increase the access of Nepali-speaking Bhutanese refugees to medical, mental health, and educational resources. Adhikari is also working with the community to preserve its traditional arts and culture.

Meryam Bouadjemi

Documentarian Bouadjemi has established MakeMoveMedia, a communications and outreach campaign designed to increase employment opportunities for returning citizens. The initiative is also building a social justice platform designed to amplify the voices of local artists.

THE NETWORK OF FELLOWS WORKS TOGETHER TO MAKE BALTIMORE **A VIBRANT, THRIVING CITY.**

Hannah Brancato

Artist Brancato has established Gather Together: A Survivor Support Network as a vehicle for survivors of domestic and sexual violence to design public campaigns or creative interventions that support healing and prevent rape and abuse.

Gregory Carpenter

Chef, baker and workforce development specialist Carpenter established I Can Bmore to provide job skills and employment services relating to the food service industry to African American men with criminal records.

Darlene Crider

Crider, a retired police officer, leads with Sisters-In-Law, a mentoring program that uses retired female law enforcement officers to ensure a safe, positive learning environment for girls 9 to 18 in the Oliver community.

David Eassa

Artist Eassa uses writing and visual art classes to promote individual and collaborative growth and break down boundaries between the men at the Maryland Correctional Institution in Jessup.

2015 GRANTS
**BALTIMORE COMMUNITY
FELLOWSHIPS**

Brian Gerardo

Gerardo, a teacher and dance enthusiast, is expanding on his work with the Baltimore Dance Crews Project by launching the Young Teaching Artists, an artist residency program that provides personal, artistic and career mentoring to transform high school hip hop dancers into afterschool program leaders.

Brion Gill

In partnership with Dew More Baltimore, Gill, a poet and artist, has established the Free Verse poetry workshop series designed to support the emotional, cognitive, and social development of youth in prisons and group homes.

Evelyn (Chavi) Rhodes

Rhodes is expanding on her work with the Baltimore Youth Energy Collective (BYKE) as a youth enrichment program designed to develop personal and professional skills in young people ages 12-17. Youth will learn bicycle mechanics, practice respectful safe ridership, and build community in a safe place.

Menes Yahudah

Yahudah, an artist and musician, has established the Muze It Outreach Program, a music and cultural program targeted to youth in the Greater Charles Village community. The program is designed to use music and cultural heritage to promote positive images.

2015 DONORS

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We thank our donors for their generous support. Their gifts inspire us and provide 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, 2015.

These gifts total \$3,498,600 and complement critical support from our founder George Soros through the Open Society Foundations.

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Gerardo, OSI Community Fellow

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**WE THANK YOU
FOR YOUR GENEROUS
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HELP US CREATE BIG CHANGE.

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 critical role in improving our city's future.

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OSI-Baltimore
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BE THE CHANGE
**THAT STARTS
SOMETHING.**

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