

Maryland Philanthropy Network Funder Coordination and Response to COVID-19

Friday, May 22, 2020

10 AM

Upcoming Coordination Calls

[Wednesday, May 27th at 10 AM – Workforce](#)

[Friday, May 29th at 9 AM - Homelessness](#)

[Friday, May 30th at 10 AM - General](#)

Executive Summary

HIGHLIGHTS AND NEEDS FROM LOCAL JURISDICTIONS

CITY

- [Baltimore Health Corps Program](#)

COUNTY

- [Baltimore County COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund](#) –application closes 5/26
- Housing insecurity (as moratoriums are lifted)
- Having coordinated funding, capacity and/or training with Baltimore City around contact tracing (for workforce development and public health)

EMERGING FOCUSES

If you are interested in hearing more about one of the below topics, email MPN staff members:

- Digital Equity
- Stable Food Ecosystem
- Aid to Immigrants
- Current Fiscal Sponsorship Landscape
- Childcare and Older Adults
- Homelessness
- Regional Economic Outlook
- Small Business and Nonprofit Sustainability (Philanthropic Role in Recovery)

Opening Remarks

Celeste Amato, President of Maryland Philanthropy Network

Celeste shared that MPN continues to organize conversations around what is next, and the role philanthropy can play in recovery. MPN is capturing and compiling information about member grants through this survey. Celeste is working on an economic impact briefing slated for June with the Baltimore Metropolitan Council and the Federal Reserve Bank. Linda led a digital equity briefing and the Digital Equity Coalition is in close communication with MPN. There will be follow-ups from the coalition to move their agenda forward. Elisabeth led a food access meeting largely focused on the scale and timeline of ongoing city and county efforts, as well as the gaps. Funders interested in the fiscal hosting ecosystem helped shape a series of conversations. The focus for these conversations will be on how to help organizations led by people of color and ensure that system is responsive and supportive. Yinka is developing and leading conversations focused on impact investing. Yinka shared that the theme of today's program with Mission Investors Exchange will focus on how Maryland can invest in place. Folks

will hear about strategies that center creative place-making, small business development as well as climate and built environment. Elisabeth is working on a conversation around re-opening. If there are resources or expertise folks would like to bring to that conversation, reach out to Elisabeth. Linda shared that workforce funders will hold a call around advocacy for working families based on [the recommendations from 46 nonprofits](#).

Lara Hall, Senior Program Officer of Educational Opportunity, Health and Mental Health, Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation

Request to hold a workforce and education program around the Youth Works program—what will happen this summer? Recent press about how [Youth Works is aiming to offer 4,000 remote summer jobs](#).

City Briefing

Dan Hymowitz, Director, Mayor's Office of Performance and Innovation *(Shared through Celeste)*

To track epidemiology of COVID-19, check out [Baltimore City's public dashboard](#). Over the last seven days, there was an average of 119 new cases. Testing continues to expand, and the city is administering 571 tests per day. This needs to be a lot higher. They are working to finalize and launch the Baltimore Health Corps Program and are interested in discussing potential support with interested funders. The city continues to organize its re-opening plan based on data to ensure a safe re-open.

County Briefing

Elisabeth Sachs, Director of Government Reform and Strategic Initiatives, Office of Baltimore County Executive

Over the last week, the county has been looking at their capacity for contact tracing and testing to gauge readiness for a safe re-opening. Yesterday, limited indoor retail opened (while keeping number of people at 10 or fewer) for care services only. They placed similar restrictions around numbers of people on worship. The county has expanded testing site through Timonium Fairgrounds. [People can go without a doctor's prescription and this will continue, with cooperation of the state, to meet the overwhelming demand](#). The county continues to ramp-up food services. When moratoriums are lifted, they want to ensure housing insecurity does not increase. As online SNAP changes, the county is working to ensure people are aware of how to use their benefits to make purchases safely. Next Tuesday, the application for [Baltimore County COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund](#) closes. Eager to see the breadth of need.

Elizabeth Rice, Program Officer, France-Merrick Foundation

How many applications have you received?

Elisabeth Sachs, Director of Government Reform and Strategic Initiatives, Office of Baltimore County Executive

As of last week, 35 completed applications and 369 in process. Will place an update in the chat.

Liz Briscoe, Consultant for the Affinity Group on Aging, Maryland Philanthropy Network

Do you have updates on the testing at Timonium Fairgrounds? Days and time? MAP Call center is getting questions about testing.

Elisabeth Sachs, Director of Government Reform and Strategic Initiatives, Office of Baltimore County Executive

The testing site is open to anyone and part of it is run by the state. Pretty sure it is from Tuesday to Thursday but Elisabeth will follow up with Celeste and Elisabeth H to confirm.

Gena O'Keefe, Senior Associate, The Annie E. Casey Foundation

How are the Baltimore county tracers coordinating with other jurisdictions?

Elisabeth Sachs, Director of Government Reform and Strategic Initiatives, Office of Baltimore County Executive

The county will not have as large of a workforce as the city. Having coordination across the region will be helpful for the public health of all of us. She will get back to us with more information.

Partner Sharing

Heather Iliff, Maryland Nonprofits

Maryland Nonprofits has been helping nonprofits navigate the decisions around re-opening. People are finding decisions ahead to be much more difficult. Heather shared an email from a member organization that places children into adopted families:

Our senior leadership team met on March 11th to plan our initial response. One of our team members was pre-symptomatic and all of staff ended up with confirmed or suspected COVID-19. In creating a plan for re-opening, I have guidance on workplace practices. What I need is information around client home visits.

Maryland Nonprofits shared resources based on what the state is doing around foster care. Each field that members work in have their own unique challenges. Maryland Nonprofits is doing all this work with an equity lens. Heather acknowledged that many folks in management positions, working from home, and largely white are making decisions that affect frontline personnel who are more likely to be Hispanic and/or African American. There has been a significant increase in the last week in the number of Hispanic residents who have tested positive. There are now 10,000 Hispanic residents and 13,000 Black residents who have tested positive versus 8,600 white residents (whites are 59% of population). This is a state-wide philanthropy network and there is a need to pay attention to Prince George's County. Many are undocumented residents. If any funders have flexibility to shift focus to Prince George's County, that would be an accurate equity-based decision.

The Paycheck Protection Program has issued new guidance around forgiveness. Maryland Nonprofits is holding a [free webinar on Wednesday](#). They are very concerned about budget cuts at the state level since the senate went home without approving funding to states and many other things that are critical in the HEROES act. Heather noted there is legislation in Baltimore City to increase pay for essential workers, which will also impact non-profits.

Several funders and partners are talking about what will happen to organizations who do not make it through this crisis. Maryland Nonprofits is putting together a workshop around mergers and strategic alliances. Heather reminded the group that Maryland Nonprofits provides consulting in this area

(exploration and legal work in effectuating a merger). Funders understand various microcosms in the non-profit landscape and play a particularly important role in opening space for these conversations between non-profits. It is essential to help Black-led and other people of color-led organizations survive. If folks have choice in their grantmaking, Heather shared that this kind of support will help level the playing field.

Regarding fiscal sponsorship and fiscal agency, Heather emphasized the strain fiscal sponsors are under. Maryland Nonprofits has a nonprofit starter practice and that work has not slowed down. Most small organizations need lots of support, so Heather encouraged funders to give general operating support to organizations willing to sponsor others. Maryland Nonprofits piloted this for a while and found it extremely complex to navigate the challenges of each organization. Funders can help backfill that situation so sponsoring organizations have capacity to provide that support.

About 1,000 nonprofits in the state are self-insured. One organization shared that their unemployment bill will be \$1.8 M if state does not take action to spread out those payments. Maryland Nonprofits is joining with [MaCO](#) and [Maryland Municipal League \(MML\)](#) to work on this advocacy.

Maryland Nonprofits team has not yet analyzed any more of the data from their PPP survey but saw that United Way has a survey out to their partners that will likely gather good information. Maryland Nonprofits has not had the bandwidth to administer another COVID-19 survey. Heather filled out Baltimore Promise's application that asked for funding streams and highlighted that as a wonderful dataset to analyze.

Discussion

Lara Hall, Senior Program Officer of Educational Opportunity, Health and Mental Health, Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation

Request to meet with the Democratic Mayoral Candidate

Eleanor Smith, President, Ann Williams Baldwin Memorial Gift Fund

There are a lot of organizations who will run into a conflict with re-payment around PPP. Any more insight around how funders can support nonprofits around that conversation? What feedback are you receiving from grantees? Many of organizations we are working with are successful with getting money and we are just trying to keep them in their lane as they use that money. How are you tackling that issue?

Celeste Amato, President, Maryland Philanthropy Network

MPN received PPP which will support the projects we fiscally host. Those folks are on our payroll. Celeste and Leah Abrams, MPN's CPA, are working to track payroll, rent and utilities—all of which will count toward forgivable portion. They do not have a sense of the kinds of documentation they will be asked for. MPN is getting updates and guidance from our bank on how this will be managed. Since MPN host organizations that touch payroll, MPN will use all of the funds. Celeste will follow-up with Heather to share more from Maryland Nonprofits membership on how they are talking about tracking and preparing documentation.

PARTICIPANTS

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Celeste	Amato	Maryland Philanthropy Network
Stephanie	Amponsah	Dream BIG
Tracey	Barbour-Gillett	Abell Foundation
Ellen	Bernard	The Bernard Family Fund
Yinka	Bode-George	Maryland Philanthropy Network
Cathy	Brill	Leonard & Helen R. Stulman Charitable Foundation
Beverly	Cooper	The Reginald F. Lewis Foundation
Martha	Cukor	Baltimore Women's Giving Circle
Linda	Dworak	Maryland Philanthropy Network
Jen	Eames	Zanvyl and Isabelle Krieger Fund
Laura	Flamm	Kaiser Permanente
Darius	Graham	Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation
Charlotte	Haase	Maryland Philanthropy Network
Lara	Hall	Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation
Kelly	Hodge Williams	Robert W. Deutsch Foundation
Elisabeth	Hyleck	Maryland Philanthropy Network
Heather	Illiff	Maryland Nonprofits
Linda	Keely	Redistribute Agency and Wealth (RAW) Trust
Kerry	McHugh	Helen J. Serini Foundation
Buffy	Minkin	Joseph and Harvey Meyerhoff Family Charitable Funds
Gena	O'Keefe	The Annie E. Casey Foundation
Elizabeth	Perriello Rice	France-Merrick Foundation
Jan	Rivitz	Aaron Straus and Lillie Straus Foundation
Elisabeth	Sachs	Office of Baltimore County Executive
Roger	Schulman	Fund for Educational Excellence
Eleanor	Smith	Ann Williams Baldwin Memorial Gift Fund
Mary	Spencer	Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County