



## Baltimore Action Projects

Bloomberg American Health Initiative and SOURCE

### Program Information and Student Application Details

[SOURCE](#) is pleased to announce Spring 2018 Baltimore Action Projects, offered in collaboration with the [Bloomberg American Health Initiative](#). The Bloomberg American Health Initiative (*the Initiative*) is a recent initiative sparked by a \$300 million donation to the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health to help reshape the national public health agenda. The initiative specifically focuses on five areas affecting public health: 1) Addiction and Overdose, 2) Obesity and the Food System, 3) Violence, 4) Risks to Adolescent Health and 5) Environmental Challenges.

In partnership with the initiative's Working Groups and SOURCE partnering community-based organizations (CBOs), **Baltimore Action Projects** are community-identified projects which directly connect to the initiative's focus areas. Through the initiative's funding, Hopkins graduate students from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and Johns Hopkins School of Nursing will be hired to work a minimum of *100 hours* to complete Baltimore Action Projects in partnership with CBOs.

**SOURCE is now accepting [Student Applications](#) for Baltimore Action Projects!**

**Applications are due by Sun, December 10 by 11:59 pm**  
(submission info found at the end of the application).

#### ***How to Apply:***

Baltimore Action Projects have already been identified by SOURCE, partnering community-based organizations (CBOs), and the initiative's Working Groups. Applicants should review Baltimore Action Project descriptions. Applications will be reviewed, and top candidates for each project will be invited to interview with the CBOs. To access the online application form, [click here](#).

#### Baltimore Action Project Student Commitments:

- *Service Hour Requirement:* Commitment to completing and reporting a **minimum of 100 hours** in Spring 2018 (late January – early May 2018) for the Baltimore Action Project. Students will report their hours regularly through a SOURCE online form.
- Students will be required to meet with and regularly communicate with their CBO contacts.
- Students will also be required to communicate with SOURCE and the host Working Group.
- Successful completion of SOURCE Online Modules, in order to prepare for community activities
- *Student Reflections:* Students are required to complete 3 reflection assignments (written and/or in-person) to discuss student learning and progress.
- *Final Report and Deliverables:* Students are required to complete a final report, and submit final deliverable(s).

#### Baltimore Action Project Benefits:

- \$1,750 stipend
- Additional \$500 in funds for CBOs to use for completing Baltimore Action Projects
- Community-based practical experience in the health field



## Baltimore Action Projects

Bloomberg American Health Initiative and SOURCE

- Opportunities to connect with the initiative's Working Groups

### Baltimore Action Project Application:

- Open to all students from the Johns Hopkins University Schools of Public Health and Nursing who will be enrolled full-time for the duration of the 2017- 2018 academic year.
- Applications must be completed by **Sun, December 10, 2017 at 11:59 pm**. Applicants will complete an online application form and attach their resume to the form. To access the application form, [click here](#).
- An internal selection team will review applications and select the top candidates to interview per project. Interviewing time frame is approximately December 18, 2017 – January 22, 2018.
- CBO preceptors will work with SOURCE to select their student.



**Baltimore Action Projects**  
Bloomberg American Health Initiative and SOURCE

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*Spring 2018 Project Descriptions*

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Focus Area</b>
Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition	Safer Public Syringe Disposal Project	Addiction and Overdose
Health Care Access Maryland	Treatment Connect	Addiction and Overdose
Maryland New Directions	Transportation Access and Industrial Redevelopment: Connecting residents to employment opportunities in Sparrows Point and beyond	Environmental Challenges



## **Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition**

### **Safer Public Syringe Disposal Project**

# **BALTIMORE HARM REDUCTION COALITION**

<http://baltimoreharmreduction.org>

1601 Guilford Ave, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Baltimore, MD 21201

*The Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition's mission is to spread harm reduction practices and principles throughout Baltimore and beyond through education, advocacy, and service. BHRC envisions a world in which harm reduction is a foundational principle in improving health outcomes. BHRC is a project of the fiscal sponsorship agency, Fusion Partnerships, a registered 501(c)3 organization in Baltimore City.*

*BHRC promotes harm reduction as a set of practical, evidence-based strategies for reducing the harms associated with behaviors that impact personal and community health. Core activities center on providing education, advocacy, and community engagement opportunities for local community members, students, and professionals. Embracing the notion of meeting people 'where they are,' harm reduction serves as a framework for health professionals to provide compassionate, non-judgmental care. We endorse policies rooted in the expressed needs of the community and that are informed by structural and historical inequities. While harm reduction is traditionally associated with substance use, BHRC encourages its application to a wide variety of behaviors and needs, including sex work, mental health care, and housing—using an anti-oppression, social justice approach.*

**Focus Area:** Addiction and Overdose

**Project Description:**

Recently, Baltimore City Councilperson Shannon Snead held a hearing of the City Council Public Safety Committee in which community members were invited to speak to how the opioid crisis was effecting



## Baltimore Action Projects

Bloomberg American Health Initiative and SOURCE

their neighborhoods. One woman passionately advocated for the need to address public drug use in her neighborhood, namely the discarded used syringes and drug paraphernalia that litter her neighborhood (near Eager Park). She and her neighbors are concerned about coming into contact with these syringes, and even more concerned with children coming in contact with them. Her neighborhood association had looked into building sharps containers, but do not have the capacity to build/buy them, replace them when full, or conduct the consistent outreach to maintain community cleanliness.

Through informal conversations with a variety of neighborhoods, it seems clear that resources are needed to clean up and keep public spaces clear of public health hazards such as used syringes. There is also the need for a wider understanding of the risks involved and different tools to access safe disposal. We believe this could benefit other advocacy efforts by de-stigmatizing both injection drug use and harm reduction public health approaches, as we continue to advocate for safer drug consumption spaces. This project's goal is to hear the concerns of the neighborhoods hardest hit by the opioid epidemic and meet those concerns head-on by offering concrete solutions. By providing tools, strategies and potential solutions to concerned communities, we hope that will begin a conversation where we can be a conduit for additional community concerns about the impact they see due to the harms associated with drug use and drug policies.

### **Project Goals:**

Funding for BHRC will support a Project Intern who will work closely with BHRC's policy committee and BHRC's executive director to increase demand for a safer response to the problem of public syringe disposal (i.e. littering of used sharps that constitute biohazardous waste). This will be achieved, in part, by these six objectives:

- 1) research the strategies being used by other jurisdictions in North America to conduct syringe clean-ups, and to install and maintain public sharps disposal containers
- 2) evaluate those strategies for use in Baltimore City
- 3) develop and carry out an educational campaign specifically for neighborhood associations about how to advocate for safer syringe disposal
- 4) support development of a public advocacy campaign in order to mobilize grassroots support for safer public disposal options;
- 5) coordinate semi-annual syringe clean-up events to bring awareness to the issue
- 6) encourage and seek partnerships with drug take back days so that used sharps and syringes are accepted as well. a variety of stakeholders, including: community residents, neighborhood associations, the Baltimore City Health Department (particularly the Community Risk Reduction Services, also known as the Needle Exchange Program); Bmore POWER, a network of outreach workers with recovery experience, and other public and community health stakeholders.

### **Student Responsibilities:**

The Project Intern will support each of the project goals by doing direct outreach to various stakeholders, research, writing reports, and facilitating meetings.

### **Required Skills:**

- A strong commitment to harm reduction and racial equity
- Excellent interpersonal communication
- Database research skills
- Strong writing skills for multiple audiences



## **Baltimore Action Projects**

Bloomberg American Health Initiative and SOURCE

- Ability to engage with people of diverse backgrounds, values, and life experiences
- Microsoft Office (or equivalent)

### **Preferred Skills:**

- Meeting facilitation skills and experience
- Media campaign experience (writing press releases, social media expertise, etc.)
- Policy decision maker (public and elected official) engagement
- Strength at balancing cooperative decision-making with self-directed work
- Experience/interest in building trust with neighborhood associations
- Experience working with people directly negatively impacted by the War on Drugs

**Personal Transportation Required:** No



## **Health Care Access Maryland**

### **Treatment Connect**



[www.healthcareaccessmaryland.org](http://www.healthcareaccessmaryland.org)

201 E. Baltimore St., 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Baltimore, MD 21202

*HealthCare Access Maryland is a nonprofit agency that connects residents to public health care coverage and helps them navigate services effectively. HCAM works with individuals, hospitals, policymakers, and social services organizations to strengthen Maryland's health care delivery system and make Maryland healthier. Each year, their 200+ employees connect more than 125,000 uninsured and underinsured clients to health insurance, health care, and vital community resources. HCAM programs and services are designed to bridge gaps in services to pregnant and postpartum women, immigrants, people experiencing homelessness, youth in foster care, people with substance use disorders, individuals recently released from jail, and others.*

**Focus Area:** Addiction and Overdose

**Project Description:**

HealthCare Access Maryland (HCAM) collaborates with Baltimore Crisis Response, Inc (BCRI), to operate the Baltimore City Crisis, Information and Referral Line. The project is funded by Behavioral Health Systems Baltimore (BHSB). HCAM provides the "Information & Referral" services of the project. Although a vitally important service, funding and technical assistance are severely lacking. The proposed project would provide technical assistance to improve the collaboration between HCAM and the substance use treatment providers with the goal of achieving on demand treatment and an improved "show rate" for the clients we connect with an appointment. Historically, our show rate has hovered between 45 and 30%. We would also look into ways to improve the "Information" side of our services so that concerned family, friends and associates receive the most useful information to assist residents in gaining access to treatment.



## **Baltimore Action Projects**

Bloomberg American Health Initiative and SOURCE

### **Project Goals:**

Provide the most effective information of our "concerned other" callers and increase the number of Baltimore City residents referred to substance use treatment and improve the actual connection rate of these individuals.

### **Student Responsibilities:**

The student would work with treatment providers and the C, I & R Line to improve collaborations so as to connect clients with the most appropriate and available treatment resource. The student would also research and develop appointment and follow up protocols that would ultimately increase the number of referrals and improve the actual connection rate.

### **Required Skills:**

The ability to develop and mediate agency collaborations. Problem solving and writing skills needed to develop protocols.

### **Preferred Skills:**

Knowledge of addiction and the treatment system

**Personal Transportation Required:** Yes



**Baltimore Action Projects**  
Bloomberg American Health Initiative and SOURCE

## **Maryland New Directions**

**Transportation Access and Industrial Redevelopment: Connecting residents to employment opportunities in Sparrows Point and beyond**



[www.mdnewdirections.org](http://www.mdnewdirections.org)

2700 N. Charles St., Suite 200  
Baltimore, MD 21218

*Maryland New Directions (MND) is a 44-year-old non-profit organization offering no-cost employment coaching and specialized career training programs for Baltimore area residents, ages 18-60 years of age. MND works with over 350 motivated job-seekers annually, most of whom face significant obstacles in finding a job or establishing a new career.*

*Their mission is to train and coach people facing career and life transitions to overcome barriers, restore self-belief, and acquire the skills and tools needed to secure employment.*

**Focus Area:** Environmental Challenges

**Project Description:**

This project is focused on the issues of industrial redevelopment, transportation, and employment, and seeks to explore reliable, efficient, and cost-effective means for transporting workers to a remote industrial redevelopment site that is constrained by complex topography.

The project focuses on Tradeport Atlantic's redevelopment of Sparrows Point, which will transform the site of the former Bethlehem Steel Mill into a new manufacturing and transshipment hub, providing jobs and opportunity while mitigating past environmental impact. Initial estimates anticipate that the Sparrow's Point project could create roughly 9,500 permanent jobs in logistics, cargo handling, and manufacturing. Yet, the isolation that once made this site viable for industrial activity, now presents a



## **Baltimore Action Projects**

Bloomberg American Health Initiative and SOURCE

real barrier to its successful redevelopment. Without viable transportation access, the new jobs will be inaccessible to many low income job seekers in Baltimore City as well as many residents of the South-Eastern Baltimore County communities surrounding the site.

Recognizing this challenge, there is currently a plan to create a new public transportation line from the Johns Hopkins' Bayview campus to Sparrows Point to address access for Baltimore City residents. Yet, for many residents of South-Eastern Baltimore County, such as the residents of Turner Station, a historically African American community with ties to the former Bethlehem Steel Mill, there is no direct access via public transportation. This project would focus on researching a shuttle, or other model, that would provide a more direct route to these new jobs for residents of South-Eastern Baltimore County, shortening the commute time, and thereby increasing quality of life and retention of employees in the surrounding communities.

### **Project Goals:**

- Improve transportation access between low-income neighborhoods and high growth job centers
- Research shuttle and/or other transportation models to help individuals access employment opportunities in new development sites around Baltimore's waterways
- Identify a transportation model to help Turner Station and other nearby residents of Sparrows Point redevelopment access the jobs with a reasonable commute time.

### **Student Responsibilities:**

- Research models that have worked to transport employees to remote sites for employment
- Explore different modes of transportation (shuttle vs. ride share)
- Explore funding sources (employer funded, employee funded, grant funded etc)
- Interview local partners that have successfully operated shuttles for employment and education access (BWI Partnership, Under Armour, Transdev, Towson, Johns Hopkins)
- Interview community leaders and other stakeholders to determine community need
- Develop a model that can be applied locally to help get employees to their jobs in a timely and cost-effective fashion including off-peak times

### **Required Skills:**

- Strong research skills
- Interview skills and ability to solicit input from a variety of stakeholders
- Effective communication skills
- Analytical and critical thinking skills to determine viable and cost-effective solutions

**Personal Transportation Required:** No

### **Additional Information:**

MND provides industry specific training to help Baltimoreans begin careers in the Maritime, Transportation, Distribution and Logistics fields in and around the Port of Baltimore. Throughout their work, transportation remains an ongoing barrier for clients, preventing them from accessing many employment opportunities. Studies have shown that an average commute using public transportation to get to work from east or west Baltimore is 90 minutes each way, which greatly impacts a person's quality of life and their overall well-being. Public funding is supporting the redevelopment at Sparrows



## **Baltimore Action Projects**

Bloomberg American Health Initiative and SOURCE

Point through Tradepoint Atlantic, and MND's hope is that unemployed Baltimoreans can benefit from this investment and the jobs it will create. As new companies have decided to develop their facilities at Sparrows Point, there is some question about whether there is a viable workforce to support this expansion. Without reliable transportation access, these jobs will not be accessible to many low income job seekers in Baltimore and employees will be recruited from further away. MND believes a local workforce can not only be more reliable and committed to their job, but that shortening their commute time will also provide obvious benefits for both individuals and the environment.