Baltimore Action Projects 2023-2024
Bloomberg American Health Initiative and SOURCE

Program Information and Student Application Details

SOURCE is pleased to announce a call for student applications for an exciting opportunity offered in collaboration with the Bloomberg American Health Initiative, an initiative sparked by a major 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) Food Systems For Health
3) Violence
4) Adolescent Health
5) Environmental Challenges

In partnership with the Initiative, SOURCE and 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, Johns Hopkins graduate students from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and the 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!

Student Applications are due by Wed, August 2, 2023, by 11:59 pm ET (submission info found at the end of the application).

How to Apply:
The 2023-2024 Baltimore Action Projects (BAP) have already been identified by SOURCE partnering community-based organizations (CBOs) and the Initiative. 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 for the Baltimore Action Project. Students will report their hours regularly through SOURCE’s BAP group page on the online Hopkins Engage platform.
• Students will be required to meet with and regularly communicate with their CBO contacts, both virtually and in-person (all projects are fully in-person or hybrid in 2023-2024, requiring a combination of on-site time with the designated Baltimore-based CBO and some remote time)
• Students will also be required to communicate with SOURCE and the Initiative designated working group.
• Successful completion of SOURCE Online Modules to prepare for community activities.
• Student Reflections: Students are required to complete 3 reflection assignments (synchronous sessions with makeup assignment, as needed) to discuss student learning and progress.
• Final Report and Deliverables: Students are required to complete a final report and submit final deliverable(s).
• **Program Impact**: Students are required to participate in a final “Program Impact” activity. Past activities have included poster sessions and recorded impact statements. Program impact activity is to be determined (TBD) for 2023-2024.

**Baltimore Action Project Benefits:**
• $1,750 stipend
• Additional $500 in funds paid directly to CBOs to use for completing Baltimore Action Projects
• Community-based experience with a CBO
• Opportunities to connect with the Initiative’s Working Groups
• For MPH students at BSPH, fully meets the MPH practicum requirement (registration for 3 academic credits of 551.895 is required if using BAP for the MPH practicum)

**Baltimore Action Project Application Process:**
• 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 2022-2023 academic year, and who will be able to perform some of their work hours on site at the Baltimore CBO.
• **Applications** must be completed by **Wed, August 2, 2023, by 11:59 pm ET**, Applicants will complete an online application form and attach their resume or CV to the form. To access the application form, [click here](#).
• An internal selection team will review applications and select the top candidates to move on to the interview round for each BAP.
• Selected applicants will interview with CBO preceptors for the available positions.
• Students and CBOs that interview for BAPs will submit their decisions and rankings following interviews.
• CBO preceptors will work with SOURCE to select their BAP student.
# Baltimore Action Projects

## 2023-2024 Project Descriptions

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Organization: Asylee Women Enterprise

AWE supports asylum seekers, foreign-born trafficking survivors, and other forced migrants as they navigate the immigration legal process, begin to heal from past trauma, and rebuild their lives in Baltimore.

Our wrap-around services include case management, transitional housing, benefits application assistance, immigration legal assistance, support meeting basic needs, and connections to healthcare and community resources.

BAHI Area: Food Systems for Health

Organization Information:
4500 Frankford Ave Baltimore, MD 21206
https://www.asyleewomen.org/

Project Title: Food Access Project

Project Description:
The AWE Food Access Project will expand and enhance AWE’s food access services, including our SNAP benefits program, food pantry, food and nutrition education classes, and onsite community garden, thereby increasing our capacity to meet the nutritional needs of forced migrants in Baltimore.

Project Goals:
o Conduct Needs Assessment and Satisfaction Survey regarding AWE’s food pantry and client food needs, and identify areas of client interest regarding food education
o Increase the number of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) clients/applicants reached through Benefits Assistance Program
o Prepare materials for AWE’s monthly food education classes
o Conduct quantitative research regarding food access and forced migration, particularly in Maryland
o Work with AWE staff to ensure equitable client access to food pantry items

How is this project related to the BAHI focus area?
Lack of citizenship status renders one precarious in every aspect of life, including employment, access to healthcare, economic and social mobility, and overall health. Research indicates that in the US there is a widespread unequal access to nourishing, culturally appropriate food. This is exacerbated for persons who rely on public benefits, and even more so for persons who are impoverished and yet ineligible for public benefits.
Forced migrants come to the US in search of safety from persecution, torture, and sometimes death. But once here, they face many new challenges as they navigate a new culture and language, and an increasingly complex immigration system.

While AWE has distributed food through our food pantry for many years our food distribution efforts have become increasingly robust since the onset of the pandemic. Through innovative programming and strong partnerships, over 200 clients and their families access food through our office and food deliveries each month, with most receiving food multiple times a month, and in 2021 AWE created our Benefits Program to assist clients and community members to apply for SNAP and WIC.

The AWE Benefits and Outreach Specialist works with clients to determine benefits eligibility, prepare and submit benefits applications, advocate on behalf of clients to ensure interpretation is provided at interviews, help clients understand their benefits, and represent client interests at the Department of Social Services (DSS) and other community partner meetings.

However, the current food benefits system in the US leaves out a large swath of vulnerable individuals.

While some AWE clients are eligible for public benefits like SNAP and WIC, most are ineligible due to their immigration status. Additionally, many are barred from working in the US for months and sometimes years after they arrive while their applications for immigration relief are pending. Those who are eligible for WIC or SNAP often need supplemental food to cover their nutritional needs. Consequently, many AWE clients are highly food insecure. AWE seeks to fill this gap by making sure our clients have enough to eat, and as much high-quality and culturally appropriate food as possible.

Additionally, AWE clients come from countries all over the world and represent a vast variety of dietary needs and preferences. Most local food pantries offer food our clients are unfamiliar with, or do not know how to cook. We seek to provide clients with healthy, culturally appropriate food and one way to do that is through our community garden where clients get to choose what is planted and harvest what they need.

What we eat is inextricably linked to long-term health, and the multiple barriers AWE clients face affording and accessing high quality food both during their journeys to the US and then the first few years after arrival, has acute and far-reaching health impacts.

By increasing AWE’s capacity to reduce food barriers for clients we can meet the gaps that exist in our current food systems and empower AWE to continue addressing these gaps in a sustainable, client-centered way.

*How will this project benefit your organization?*

This project will increase our capacity to ensure our clients access the food they need to meet their nutritional needs, and aspirationally the food they desire to eat as food is an important connection to heritage, culture, and people and is much more than solely a nutritional requirement.

The project will benefit the growing forced migrant community in Baltimore, a severely under-served population in the city to ensure the clients we serve can meet their nutritional needs.
Primary Student Roles and Responsibilities:
The student will work closely with our Benefits and Outreach Specialist as well as our Donation and Facilities Coordinator.

Primary responsibilities include:

- Conducting a Needs Assessment with AWE clients assessing their satisfaction with the food offered at AWE, additional food items they would like to see AWE, items they would like to see planted in AWE’s garden, and topics they would like to see covered in monthly food education classes
- Researching food access as it relates to forced migrants
- Assisting with SNAP and WIC benefits applications
- Assisting with the curriculum preparation and teaching of monthly food and nutrition education classes (past client-identified class topics include: Avoiding Food Waste and Maximizing Your Groceries, Using Garden Herbs, Understanding Supplements, and more)
- Assist with the processing and organization of items for AWE’s food pantry, ensuring clients have equitable access to pantry items

Required Skills:
- Fluency in English
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office

NOTE: AWE requires all staff, volunteers, and clients in the building to have completed a vaccination primary series and have at least one booster.

Preferred Skills (if any):
- Second language preferred (Spanish, French, Farsi, Dari, Swahili, Arabic)
- Experience working with food access equity organizations such as: a food pantry, community garden, co-op, etc. preferred, but not required.

Work Arrangements (preference for how the selected student will complete the project):
Project should be completed primarily in-person.

Is personal transportation required of a selected student?
No, public transportation is readily available for in-person tasks.
Organization: **Banner Neighborhoods Community Corporation**

Banner Neighborhoods Community Corporation was established in 1982 to address disinvestment in Baltimore City communities of color, which had resulted in deterioration of housing stock and increasing numbers of vacant and abandoned homes. Supported by a major grant from the Ford Foundation, Banner initiated a program to help seniors keep their homes in good repair and remain in their communities. In 1999 Banner launched a community empowerment initiative that resulted in visible neighborhood improvements such as wall murals, community gardens, and playgrounds. Programs for youth were added in 2000. Today, key initiatives include services to help senior homeowners age in place, afterschool and weekend programs for young people, job preparation for older youth, and partnerships with community-based organizations.

BAHI Area: **Adolescent Health**

**Organization Information:**
2911 Pulaski Highway 21224
bannerneighborhoods.org

**Project Title:** **Engaging Youth In Sports**

**Project Description:**
Engaging Youth in Sports (EYS) is an afterschool program designed specifically for middle school aged kids who have a sedentary lifestyle. Participants meet twice a week for ten weeks for nearly two hours of physical activity and enrichment. The activities are less traditional sports and more fun: capture the flag, cone guardian, blatterball, chair game. The enrichment sessions might be fun activities like marshmallow tower and shark tank, or there may be discussions about important topics such as healthy eating, body image, conflict resolution, and online safety.

**Project Goals:**
Goal 1: Increase participation in physical activity for youth of color who are not physically active

Measure 1: Twenty-five (25) Percent of program participants will participate in Banner’s Community Sports League

Objective 1: Offer weekly activity/sport sampling to introduce middle school age kids to a variety of physical activities they could enjoy individually or with others

Goal 2: Improve physical literacy

Measure 2: Ninety (90) Percent improvement on post survey

Objective 2: Provide ten weeks of activities to help young boys or girls to develop knowledge and skills to make healthy, active choices for life
Goal 3: Increase consumption of fruits and vegetables and decrease consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages

Measure 3: Ninety (90) Percent improvement on post survey

Objective 3: Offer weekly instruction in eating to win, nutrition, and food planning; provide daily healthy snacks; and encourage food journaling to encourage healthy eating habits

Goal 4: Increase knowledge of age-appropriate life skills activities such as conflict resolution and financial literacy.

Measure 4: Ninety (90) Percent improvement on post survey

Objective 4: Provide weekly enrichment sessions on life skills using the Go Girls Go! Curriculum for example

How is this project related to the BAHI focus area?
The Engaging Youth in Sports Program will serve students in 6th through 8th grade who are not typically physically active. The program will be run in partnership between Banner Neighborhoods Community Corporation and local Elementary/Middle Schools.

Engaging Youth in Sports program will serve middle school students by enhancing their physical and emotional health. The program will be a safe space for the children to talk about difficult feelings, mindfulness, and bullying. The primary outcomes of the program are:

1. Increase participation in physical activity for youth who are not physically active;
2. Improve physical literacy;
3. Increase consumption of fruits and vegetables and decreased consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages; and
4. Increase knowledge on other age appropriate life skills activities such as conflict resolution and financial literacy.

How will this project benefit your organization?
All services and programs are provided free of charge. Each one involves learning new skills, making good choices, working effectively with peers and adults, practicing leadership, and being rewarded for effort and achievement. Banner’s full-time and part-time staff lead the programs, with adult volunteers from the neighborhoods providing support and encouragement. Together, they realize a vision of these young people as neighborhood assets rather than potential problems.

The afterschool program runs every Wednesday (1:30 pm - 3:30 pm) and Friday (2:30 pm - 4:30 pm) at Patterson Park Public Charter School located at 27 N Lakewood Ave, Baltimore, MD 21224. City schools have half days on Wednesdays, which is why the program runs from 1:30 pm-3:30 pm on Wednesdays.

Primary Student Roles and Responsibilities:
Banner Neighborhoods is seeking someone who is willing to assist with the facilitation of an after-school program for middle school children. The ideal candidate has an interest in education and is willing to assist with leadership building and physical activities.

Because the BAP student will be working with youth, they will be required to complete the JHU Child Safety Training module, as well as a background check and fingerprinting (costs are covered by Banner Neighborhoods).

Responsibilities include:
- Chaperone during field trips;
- Help facilitate discussion sessions to make girls feel included and comfortable;
- Help facilitate physical activities;
- Other duties as assigned.

Required Skills:
- Implement activities and events
- Effectively coordinate, direct and train the assigned sports staff
- Maintain effective working relationships with other employees, department personnel and the public, and interact with them in a courteous and respectful manner
- Demonstrate strong oral communication skills.
- Present self in a professional manner to participants, co-workers, and the community at large.
- Work cooperatively with a diverse group of people

Preferred Skills (if any):
Knowledge of appropriate sports rules and regulations as it pertains to Basketball, Soccer, Volleyball, Track & Field and others as applicable.

Woman willing to work with young girls
- Microsoft Office, Excel, Outlook, and Teams software.
- Teaching and planning lessons
- Database management

Work Arrangements (preference for how the selected student will complete the project):
Project should be completed primarily in-person.
Is personal transportation required of a selected student?

Yes, for any in-person tasks.
Organization: Food Policy and Planning

The Food Policy and Planning Division is led by the Food Policy Director and staffed by a Food Access, a Food Resilience, and a Food Systems Planner. This division oversees the Baltimore Food Policy Initiative (BFPI), which has three pillars - interagency collaboration, the Food Policy Action Coalition (Food PAC), and Resident Food Equity Advisors (RFEA). Together, these efforts seek to build an equitable and resilient urban food system by addressing health, economic and environmental disparities in areas that have high food insecurity.

BAHI Area: Food Systems for Health

Organization Information:
417 E. Fayette Street, 8th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202
https://planning.baltimorecity.gov/baltimore-food-policy-initiative

Project Title: Understanding Food Access in Urban Planning

Project Description:
Baltimore City Department of Planning is currently working on the City's 10-year comprehensive plan. Food Access was selected as a priority topic area through in-person and virtual community engagement. Last Fall, Food Policy and Planning (FPP) wrote a public brief on Food Access and Security and developed initial recommendations in partnership with community members. Over the next phases of writing and review, FPP will finalize the draft recommendations, develop related goals and actions, and draft and finalize the Food Access Chapter of the comprehensive plan. In addition, land use planning for urban farms and land tenure for BIPOC farms is a focus of FPP, and we are interested in including it in the City's plan. We will be researching precedents and incorporating policy recommendations into the Food Access chapter.

Project Goals:
Research food policy recommendations in comprehensive urban planning across the country (e.g. Richmond, VA; Denver, CO)

Assist in the final drafting of policy recommendations for the Food Access chapter of the City's comprehensive plan

Develop goals and actions for the Food Access chapter of the City's comprehensive plan

Develop policy recommendations for land tenure for BIPOC farmers

How is this project related to the BAHI focus area?
The comprehensive plan guides the city for the next 10 years. We want to ensure that food policy and Baltimore’s food system are carefully considered, especially since it was a priority topic chosen by the City's residents. A well-developed and researched Food Access chapter will be a beneficial tool for future food policies such as land tenure for BIPOC farmers, increasing transportation access to healthy foods,
or developing and supporting alternative modes of food access for older adults. The Food Access chapter will also build off FPP's current work with partners like BCHD and BCPSS and the 5-pillared ARPA project which touches various aspects of the food system.

How will this project benefit your organization?
As an organization, having a Baltimore Action project student will extend the capacity for writing and research. Currently, only 1 team member is working on the comprehensive plan draft and updates. The FPP has also been intentional about creating jobs and career pathways in food policy. In the last 2 years, we’ve hired 3 Baltimore corps fellows, one of which is now a full-time DOP staff member. We have partnered with Morgan State University, guest lectured for a Hopkins food-systems course, and contributed funding to the Farm Alliance’s Black Butterfly Urban Farmer Academy. Our team is excited about the opportunity for more students to be exposed to our food systems work.

As for Citywide benefits, having clear plans and goals will help guide food system improvement over the next 10 years. FPP has the unique opportunity of an entire chapter dedicated to food policy and food access advocacy. Many cities that recently went through the comprehensive planning process did not give as much space or attention to food access. In addition, incorporating land tenure recommendations will help provide policy-based support for the City's BIPOC farmers.

Primary Student Roles and Responsibilities:
- Assist FPP with drafting and finalizing the Food Access chapter in Baltimore City’s comprehensive plan
- Attend meetings about comprehensive plan updates and take notes
-Synthesizing notes and recommendations from previous community engagement sessions
- Assist in drafting final policy recommendations
- Research land tenure initiatives for urban farms and BIPOC farmers
- Research precedents for land use planning for urban farms

Required Skills:
- Efficient in Microsoft Word and Excel
- Demonstrates ability to read and write clearly and effectively
- Demonstrates understanding of basic technology skills
- Is a team player and works well with others

Preferred Skills (if any):
Experience or educational background in food systems, food policy, urban planning, and/or agriculture and land use
Someone who is organized and can work on multiple projects at once

Passionate about one or more of the following topics: food equity, food systems, food policy, urban agriculture, land use

Work Arrangements (preference for how the selected student will complete the project):
Project can be completed through a hybrid model, some time in-person and some time remote.

Is personal transportation required of a selected student?
No, public transportation is readily available for in-person tasks.
Organization: **Historic East Baltimore Community Action Coalition, Inc.**

In partnership with the community, The Historic East Baltimore Community Action Coalition, Inc. (HEBCAC) provides programming to improve the well-being of East Baltimore residents. HEBCAC has three programs co-located within our 1212 N. Wolfe St. building: a wellness and recovery center (Dee's Place), a youth workforce development program (Youth Opportunity Center), and a youth homeless shelter (The NEST). Program directors and staff collaborate closely to provide comprehensive services to every community resident who walks through our doors and support their education, employment, and overall wellness goals. In addition to these programs, HEBCAC collaborates with the local community to identify priorities in terms of neighborhood development, beautification, and safety. Throughout HEBCAC’s nearly 30-year history as an anchor institution in East Baltimore, we have developed both broad and deep relationships with East Baltimore residents in the joint mission to address the historic disinvestment in this vibrant part of Baltimore City. Furthermore, our history of partnerships and ongoing commitments from city agencies demonstrates our success at operating social service programs in East Baltimore.

**BAHI Area:** **Addiction and Overdose**

**Organization Information:**
1212 N. Wolfe St. Baltimore, MD 21213
hebcac.org

**Project Title:** **Expanding Dee's Place Wellness and Recovery Center Services**

**Project Description:**
A supportive drug and alcohol recovery center, Dee’s Place offers Baltimore City residents peer-based mentoring and referrals for medical and mental health treatment, as well as a host of services free of charge to help create a better life in recovery. Dee’s Place facilitates a whole-person approach to reviewing a client’s needs and building a plan of care to systematically address all the issues they present. Dee’s Place has been a touchstone for recovery in Baltimore City since 2000. Recently, Dee’s Place has expanded its hours of operation from 60 hours per week to 105 hours per week. This is a significant advancement towards the long-term goal of becoming a 24-hour recovery support center and fulfilling the original vision of Dee’s Place founder, Deloris Banks-Sparks.

**Project Goals:**
A BAP student is wanted to support Dee's Place Wellness and Recovery Center as they expand services and fulfill the various components of funding sources. Expanding the hours of operation at Dee's Place requires significantly more resources to be able to continue to provide the quality of care and support to every individual who walks through the door. Having a Graduate Student Intern dedicated to supporting this expansion would be an asset to Dee’s Place.

1. By September 29, 2024, Dee’s Place will have expanded our hours of operation from 60 hours per week to 96 hours per week toward our long-term goal of becoming a 24-hour recovery support center.
2. By September 29, 2024, because of expanded hours of service, Dee’s Place will have increased the number of 12-Step Group Meetings hosted from 12 meetings per week to 21 meetings per week.

3. By September 29, 2024, because of expanded hours of service, Dee’s Place will increase the number of peer-to-peer encounters from 30 encounters per week to 42 encounters per week.

4. By September 29, 2024, because of expanded hours of service, Dee’s Place will increase the number of Certified Peer Recovery Specialist (CPRS) facilitated group support meetings from 10 support meetings per week to 12 support meetings per week.

5. By September 29, 2024, because of expanded hours of service and additional meetings, Dee’s Place will increase the number of sign-ins for group or one-on-one peer support from 600 sign ins per week to 750 sign ins per week.

6. By September 29, 2024, because of expanded hours of service, Dee’s Place will increase referrals to supportive services from 200 referrals per week to 250 referrals per week.

*How is this project related to the BAHI focus area?*

Every day individuals reach out to Dee’s Place for recovery support from addiction. On average, Dee’s Place provides recovery support to nearly 4,813 sign-ins every month. This number includes those who attend NA/AA/AIM support groups, receive support services such as referrals to treatment, housing etc., and those seeking one-on-one encounters with our Certified Peer Recovery Specialists. An average of 50 unduplicated individuals receive these one-on-one peer recovery support services every month.

While opioid use is the most prevalent issue facing our clients, some are seeking assistance with alcoholism, and others face challenges with other substances and addictive behaviors. We believe the ongoing demand for Dee’s Place services strongly evidences the importance of expanding Dee’s Place hours of operations.

*How will this project benefit your organization?*

Opioid overdoses are a national public health crisis and Maryland ranks #2 among states with the highest per capita rates of Opioid Involved Overdose Deaths in the available data from National Institute Health. Governor Moore signaled the urgency of this crisis when he recently elected Emily Keller to be Maryland’s first Special Secretary of Opioid Response. Historically, Baltimore City has incurred among the highest overdose fatality rates of any city in the U.S. According to the Big Cities Health Inventory data platform, which pulls from data collected by the National Vital Statistics System (NVSS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2021, Baltimore City ranked number one in deaths from drug overdose. We believe the ongoing demand for Dee’s Place services strongly evidences the importance of expanding Dee’s Place hours of operations.

Expanding the hours of operation at Dee’s Place requires significantly more resources to be able to continue to provide the quality of care and support to every individual to walks through our door. Having a Graduate Student Intern dedicated to supporting this expansion would be an asset to Dee’s
Primary Student Roles and Responsibilities:

• Assist the development of a consumer feedback plan and survey tool that will be used to collect feedback from Dee's Place clients to improve program quality and accurately collect the voices of clients at Dee's Place. Implement survey tool.

• Assist in the development of a written tobacco/nicotine cessation plan for how tobacco and vaping cessation strategies are integrated into Dee's Place services, and help develop a tool to collect the impact of these strategies on Dee's place participants' level of tobacco use. This project can also include ideation around prevention interventions and print materials aimed at decreasing tobacco and nicotine use.

• Assist in the improvement of Dee's Place data collection, organization, and analysis policies and infrastructure. Work with Dee's Place director and HEBCAC Community Organizer to increase efficiency of data needs for input into grant reporting and applications. This includes helping us track and organize data relevant to client engagements, screenings, and case management and assisting in physically/digitally improving our data management process.

• Marketing and communication efforts to increase knowledge of Dee's Place in the community and engage new and existing partners.

Assist Dee’s Place Program Director/Community Organizer with grants management and reporting.

Required Skills:

• Effective written and verbal communication skills.

• Intermediate-level proficiency in the following: Microsoft Office software (MS Word, PowerPoint, Outlook and Excel).

• Detail-oriented

• Organized

Preferred Skills (if any):

Familiarity with grants for non-profits

Familiarity working in a non-profit environment

Work Arrangements (preference for how the selected student will complete the project):

Project should be completed primarily in-person.

Is personal transportation required of a selected student?

No, public transportation is readily available for in-person tasks.
Organization: **Intersection of Change**

Intersection of Change is a community-based non-profit in Baltimore, MD founded in 1996 to address poverty-related challenges in Baltimore’s Sandtown-Winchester, Upton, and surrounding communities.

**BAHI Area:** **Addiction and Overdose**

**Organization Information:**
PO Box 12764, 1947 Pennsylvania Avenue
https://intersectionofchange.org/

**Project Title:** **Martha’s Place**

**Project Description:**
Martha’s Place is a long-term recovery program started in 2000 for women overcoming substance abuse and homelessness. The program helps women achieve stability (both with life skills and economically) by providing housing with supportive services such as addictions counseling, money management training, case management, wellness classes, and community meals.

**Project Goals:**
Martha’s Place defines its success as women leaving the program clean and sober with a job and housing. Any funding to this program will support the operational costs of the program components are used to achieve this goal:

- Provide women in recovery with safe supportive housing
- Provide women in recovery with case management and individual addictions counseling sessions
- Assist residents to maintain consistent employment and active volunteer work
- Work with residents to see them and pay a rent contribution
- Provide money management education to help residents cultivate financial management skills
- Provide wellness and social activities that support emotional skill building, including weekly workshops and hands-on learning activities
- Guide and monitor residents as they attend weekly NA/AA meetings, select a sponsor
- Assist clients to obtain permanent housing before they leave the program

**How is this project related to the BAHI focus area?**
Martha’s Place program is related to Addiction and Overdose with its goals of supporting Behavioral Health and Healing by offering services that uplift African American/Black communities that need holistic healing from substance abuse. It works to help women overcome substance abuse and
homelessness and bring emotional, economic, and social healing for women in recovery to achieve secure independent living.

**How will this project benefit your organization?**

Martha’s Place is situated in the Sandtown-Winchester and Upton neighborhoods of west Baltimore - predominantly African American communities with a combined population 25,500. 40% of families are financially poor, with the median income for Sandtown-Winchester being $23,974 and $13,811 for Upton. The unemployment rate is 8.8%, 41.7% of residents ages 16 to 64 are not in the labor force, and 3% of the population is incarcerated, the highest rate in the city. Decades of health disparities in these communities have resulted in the lowest life expectancy and the highest population in a food desert, with diagnoses of 31% heart disease, 5.7% diabetes, and 4.3% chronic respiratory disease. Addiction and overdose have complicated the situation in the community. The Intersection of Change has been supporting this community by providing a safe environment to rehabilitate people affected by the difficult circumstances to which the residents were exposed. Therefore, when the project is implemented, it addresses the issues of community members who have been negatively affected by issues related to addiction and overdose.

Our Martha’s Place recovery program for women overcoming substance abuse and homelessness consistently sees a 75% success rate for women leaving the program clean and sober, with a job and stable, permanent housing. Women in the program receive services but have also been vital as residents, stabilizing our intersection and reclaiming the corners from open-air drug markets that previously existed. Alumni of the program have also become staff over the years.

**Primary Student Roles and Responsibilities:**

- Need Assessment
- Facilitating Beneficiary group counseling by the professionals
- Health Screening facilitation
- Assisting the Program Director on planning

**Required Skills:**

- Fundraising
- Health assistance
- Addiction recovery support
Therapy
Communication
Reporting
Impact assessment

Preferred Skills (if any):
Health support
Resources mobilization/fundraising
Impact assessment
Socialization
Counseling

Work Arrangements (preference for how the selected student will complete the project):
Project can be completed through a hybrid model, some time in-person and some time remote.

Is personal transportation required of a selected student?
No, public transportation is readily available for in-person tasks.
Organization: **MissionFit Inc.**

MissionFit is dedicated to changing the landscape of health and wellness in Baltimore City by creating a supportive community centered around fitness. Programs are youth-driven to build strength and character through the power of movement while immersed in a positive community building environment within cohorts of coach-mentors and youth. Programs center around mental and physical health education while developing skills which lead to improved social-emotional-mental wellness. Participants begin to experience the benefits from their very first interactions with Coaches who start by collaborating with youth to define their health-based goals and create a plan to achieve their goals.

**BAHI Area: Adolescent Health**

**Organization Information:**
2720 Sisson St.
www.missionfit.org

**Project Title:** **MissionFit: Coach Recruitment**

**Project Description:**
MissionFit relies on placing great coach-mentors in front of Baltimore’s youth to use movement, games, and sweat in order to build camaraderie, teamwork, and grit, and have fun in a gym setting. Presently, our programs are stymied by lack of available coaches. In order to overcome that obstacle, MissionFit aims to advance a push to recruit great coaches. These coaches might be student-athletes, local crossfitters, and current coaches. This recruitment push will build connections with local gyms, YMCAs and colleges in order to establish pipelines for interested coach-volunteers into MissionFit. The second element of the project will be to design and implement a one or two day orientation seminar in which MissionFit will educate incoming coaches on values, techniques, and expectations and offer methods and tools for successful coaching that fit within MissionFits values and target outcomes.

**Project Goals:**
Goals for this program are to 1) increase community involvement and integrate the fitness community into the promotion of adolescent health, 2) decrease isolation among Baltimore’s youth by connecting community members to youth and increasing program hours, and 3) improve health outcomes for Baltimore’s youth by developing and activating a recruitment system and orientation to engage volunteer movement coaches at MissionFit.

*How is this project related to the BAHI focus area?*
MissionFit aims to strengthen the mind, body, and community of Baltimore’s youth. Our signature programs bring youth together to learn movement techniques, engage with coach mentors, and build an association between movement, exercise, and fun. Our theory of change illustrates how our program inputs have the ability to create a healthy Baltimore community led by youth with the human, health, and emotional skills, and resources they need to succeed.
We’re developing a cycle that brings youth together at a young age for basic movement programming and then graduates them into workforce development and certification programs. When we complete that cycle, the young people that came into the space as 14 year-olds to develop into higher-level programs to grow as professionals who can be the coaches of future generations of youth. In order to make that happen, MissionFit needs a cache of great coaches to create depth and breadth of impact that helps Baltimore’s young people avoid obesity, isolation and the physical and mental afflictions that disproportionately burden our youth.

How will this project benefit your organization? MissionFit programs incorporate activities that reinforce strengths and help youth identify paths to achieve their goals. When surrounded by role models who foster meaningful peer relationships, participants grow through the power of doing. Research shows healthy behavior and physical activity have numerous benefits for youth development that improve long-term outcomes.

Deep-rooted inequity in Baltimore widens an opportunity gap that further burdens underserved neighborhoods with disproportionate violence and trauma. Our long-term outcomes generate significant social ROI that will bolster black liberation, disrupt systemic injustices, and increase prosperity. MissionFit’s results show that our methods work. We need coaches to enact change at scale.

Beyond physical strength, benefits include academic and professional achievement, healing from trauma, and reduced morbidity. Youth learn their capacity and recognize their potential to influence others, leading to exponential impact.

As we grow, our work paves the way for self-empowered communities to achieve:

- Reduced violence and improved neighborhood safety.
- Decreased health care costs
- Advancement in health equity for black and brown populations

Our programs include the Voices of Baltimore podcast which is a youth-led podcast series that drive youth voice by discussing topics decided upon by MissionFit’s young leaders: the Strength Ambassadors.

**Primary Student Roles and Responsibilities:**

The JHU Student role/responsibility will be to:

- Lead on building connections with fitness organizations and communities (with help from the preceptor)
- Create a recruitment tool in order to gather interest and contact information from potential volunteer coaches
- Support in gathering volunteer coaches for an orientation
- Design a welcome packet for volunteers
- Support in designing/implementing one or two-day orientation for coach-volunteers
- Distribute evaluation/feedback forms to participants

Required Skills:
Email communication
Listening

Preferred Skills (if any):
Marketing
Volunteer engagement
Program implementation/communication
Data evaluation

Work Arrangements (preference for how the selected student will complete the project):
Project can be completed through a hybrid model, some time in-person and some time remote.

Is personal transportation required of a selected student?
No, public transportation is readily available for in-person tasks.
Organization: **Pride Center of Maryland**

The Pride Center of Maryland offers over 30 programs and services that reflect our dedication to ensuring Maryland’s sexual and gender minority community have equal access to care, services, and a space where they can be their authentic selves. Each year, we serve thousands of Maryland residents in order to fulfill our commitment of uniting, empowering, and advocating on behalf of sexual and gender minorities of Baltimore and Central Maryland.

**BAHI Area:** **Addiction and Overdose**

**Organization Information:**
2418 Saint Paul St, Baltimore, MD 21218
https://www.pridecentermd.org/

**Project Title:** **Pathways to Recovery: Linking Patients to Medication for Addiction Treatment**

**Project Description:**
The project "Pathways to Recovery: Linking Patients to Medication for Addiction Treatment" aims to address the critical issue of addiction treatment by improving access to medication for individuals seeking recovery. It recognizes the importance of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) as a proven and effective approach to help individuals overcome substance use disorders. By linking patients to medication or providing it directly, the project seeks to bridge the gap between individuals in need and the necessary resources for addiction treatment.

The project focuses on achieving several key objectives. Firstly, it aims to increase access to medication-assisted treatment by developing a comprehensive referral system or direct medication distribution program. This will ensure that individuals seeking addiction treatment have increased access to MAT options, regardless of their geographical location or socioeconomic status. By collaborating with healthcare professionals, clinics, and treatment centers, the project will expand the availability of MAT in the community, thus reaching a larger number of individuals in need.

Secondly, the project aims to improve treatment adherence and outcomes. Seamless transitions and continuity of care are crucial for successful recovery. By linking patients to medication for addiction treatment or providing direct support, the project will ensure consistent access to medications and establish monitoring mechanisms to enhance treatment adherence and reduce the risk of relapse. The project will provide ongoing support, counseling, and case management services to empower individuals on their journey to recovery.

Reducing barriers to treatment is another core focus of the project. Stigma, financial constraints, and lack of awareness often prevent individuals from seeking and accessing addiction treatment. Through targeted outreach and education initiatives, the project will combat stigma, increase awareness about available treatment options, and promote the benefits of medication-assisted treatment. By engaging with communities, organizations, and government agencies, the project will create a supportive environment that encourages individuals to seek help and access the resources they need.
To ensure effective implementation, the project will foster collaboration and coordination among healthcare providers, addiction treatment centers, community organizations, and government agencies. By establishing protocols, guidelines, and information sharing mechanisms, the project will ensure a coordinated approach to linking patients to medication or providing direct support. This holistic approach will result in comprehensive care that addresses the physical, mental, and social aspects of individuals’ recovery journey.

Lastly, the project will evaluate its effectiveness and impact through an ongoing monitoring and evaluation process. By collecting data on patient outcomes, treatment adherence, and satisfaction, the project will continually assess its performance and make necessary adjustments to optimize its impact. Additionally, the project will seek sustainable funding sources, grants, and partnerships to support its long-term operation, ensuring continued access to medication for addiction treatment and support services.

Project Goals:

Goal: Increase Access to Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)

Develop a comprehensive referral system or direct medication distribution program to ensure that individuals seeking addiction treatment have increased access to MAT options.

Collaborate with healthcare professionals, clinics, and treatment centers to expand the availability of MAT in the community.

Goal: Improve Treatment Adherence and Outcomes

Facilitate seamless transitions and continuity of care by linking patients to medication for addiction treatment or providing direct support, ensuring consistent access to medications.

Implement monitoring and support mechanisms to enhance treatment adherence and reduce the risk of relapse.

Goal: Reduce Barriers to Treatment

Identify and address barriers that prevent individuals from accessing medication for addiction treatment, such as stigma, financial constraints, and lack of awareness.

Implement outreach and education initiatives to reduce stigma, increase awareness of available treatment options, and promote the benefits of medication-assisted treatment.

Goal: Enhance Collaboration and Coordination

Foster partnerships with healthcare providers, addiction treatment centers, community organizations, and government agencies to establish a coordinated approach to linking patients to medication or providing direct support.

Develop protocols and guidelines to ensure effective collaboration, information sharing, and holistic care for individuals seeking addiction treatment.

Goal: Promote Holistic Support and Recovery
Offer additional support services alongside medication for addiction treatment, such as counseling, peer support, and case management, to address the complex needs of individuals in recovery.

Advocate for comprehensive and integrated healthcare services that prioritize the physical, mental, and social well-being of individuals seeking addiction treatment.

**Goal: Evaluate and Improve the Program**

Establish an evaluation framework to assess the effectiveness of the program in terms of patient outcomes, satisfaction, and adherence to medication.

Collect feedback from patients, healthcare providers, and stakeholders to continuously improve the program and ensure its alignment with the evolving needs of the community.

**Goal: Achieve Long-Term Sustainability**

Seek sustainable funding sources, grants, and partnerships to support the ongoing operation and expansion of the program.

Develop a plan for the program's long-term sustainability, including strategies for resource allocation, community engagement, and adaptation to changes in healthcare policies and practices.

**Goal: Reduce Stigma and Discrimination Against LGBTQ+ Individuals with Substance Use Disorders**

Develop educational campaigns and workshops targeting healthcare professionals, community members, and LGBTQ+ organizations to increase awareness and understanding of the unique challenges faced by LGBTQ+ individuals with substance use disorders.

Collaborate with LGBTQ+ advocacy groups and organizations to create safe and inclusive spaces that promote acceptance, support, and access to resources for LGBTQ+ individuals seeking addiction treatment.

**Goal: Enhance Understanding of the Intersection Between Addiction and LGBTQ+ Crime Rates**

Conduct research and data analysis to identify the underlying factors contributing to higher crime rates among LGBTQ+ individuals with substance use disorders, such as systemic discrimination, lack of support networks, or limited access to resources.

Collaborate with criminal justice agencies, LGBTQ+ community organizations, and social researchers to develop evidence-based interventions that address the root causes of addiction-related crimes within the LGBTQ+ community, promote rehabilitation and treatment, and advocate for more inclusive and compassionate approaches within the criminal justice system.

**How is this project related to the BAHI focus area?**

Pathways to Recovery: Linking Patients to Medication for Addiction Treatment is directly related to addiction and overdose as it seeks to address the underlying causes and risks associated with substance use disorders. Addiction is a complex and chronic condition that can lead to devastating consequences, including overdose and even death. This project recognizes the urgent need to provide effective treatment options to individuals struggling with addiction in order to prevent overdoses and promote
successful recovery. By linking patients to medication for addiction treatment or providing it directly, the project aims to ensure that individuals have access to evidence-based interventions that can significantly reduce the risk of overdose. Moreover, by improving treatment adherence and offering comprehensive support services, the project strives to enhance the overall well-being of individuals, minimizing the chances of relapse and subsequent overdose incidents. Through its multifaceted approach, Pathways to Recovery seeks to create a supportive environment that empowers individuals to overcome addiction, reduce the occurrence of overdoses, and ultimately save lives.

**How will this project benefit your organization?**
The project "Pathways to Recovery: Linking Patients to Medication for Addiction Treatment" would be highly beneficial to the Pride Center of Maryland and the Baltimore community as it addresses the pressing issue of addiction within the LGBTQ+ population. Statistics reveal that LGBTQ+ individuals are disproportionately affected by substance use disorders compared to the general population. According to studies, LGBTQ+ individuals are more likely to engage in substance abuse as a means to cope with the challenges and discrimination they face, leading to higher rates of addiction.

By implementing this project, the Pride Center of Maryland can provide crucial support to LGBTQ+ individuals struggling with addiction. By linking patients to medication for addiction treatment or providing it directly, the project will increase access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT) options that have proven to be highly effective in promoting recovery. This approach aligns with the Pride Center's mission of empowering sexual and gender minorities and advocating for a better quality of life.

The Baltimore community will also benefit significantly from this project. Baltimore has witnessed the impact of addiction and substance abuse, with statistics highlighting the high prevalence of drug-related overdoses and deaths. By addressing addiction and providing access to medication-assisted treatment, the project can contribute to reducing overdose rates and promoting healthier communities.

Furthermore, the project's focus on holistic support and comprehensive care aligns with the Pride Center's commitment to serving the community's diverse needs. LGBTQ+ individuals often face unique challenges in accessing appropriate healthcare and addiction treatment services due to stigma and discrimination. By offering tailored support services alongside medication, the project can help address the specific needs of LGBTQ+ individuals in recovery, fostering a more inclusive and supportive environment.

**Primary Student Roles and Responsibilities:**

Outreach and Education Team:
- Develop educational materials and resources to raise awareness about addiction, MAT, and the importance of linking patients to medication.
- Organize outreach events and campaigns to promote the project within the student community and broader society.
- Collaborate with community organizations, schools, and colleges to deliver educational sessions on addiction prevention and treatment.

Data Collection and Analysis:
- Design data collection tools and surveys to gather information on patient experiences, barriers to treatment, and outcomes.
- Assist in collecting and organizing data from various sources, ensuring accuracy and confidentiality.
- Collaborate with the research team to analyze collected data and provide insights that inform project strategies and interventions.

Community Partnerships:
- Identify and establish collaborations with local healthcare providers, addiction treatment centers, and community organizations to strengthen the project's impact.
- Participate in meetings and discussions with partners to explore opportunities for joint initiatives and resource sharing.
- Foster positive relationships and maintain regular communication with partner organizations.

Required Skills:
Research Skills:
- Ability to conduct thorough literature reviews and gather relevant information on addiction treatment, medication-assisted treatment (MAT), and related topics.
- Proficiency in collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data and statistics to inform project strategies and recommendations.

Communication Skills:
- Strong written and verbal communication skills to effectively convey information, write reports, create educational materials, and communicate with stakeholders.
- Ability to engage with diverse audiences, including students, healthcare professionals, community members, and individuals seeking addiction treatment.

Empathy and Sensitivity:
- Demonstrated empathy and sensitivity towards individuals struggling with addiction, recognizing the unique challenges they face.
- Ability to interact with compassion, respect, and non-judgmental attitudes when working with individuals seeking treatment and their families.

Teamwork and Collaboration:
- Capacity to work effectively in a team setting, collaborating with fellow students, project coordinators, and community partners.
- Willingness to contribute ideas, actively listen, and support others in achieving project goals.

Organizational and Time Management Skills:
- Strong organizational skills to manage multiple tasks, meet deadlines, and coordinate project activities.
- Ability to prioritize responsibilities, adapt to changing circumstances, and maintain attention to detail.

Problem-Solving and Critical Thinking:
- Aptitude for analyzing complex issues related to addiction treatment and developing innovative solutions.
- Critical thinking skills to assess challenges and barriers to medication access, and propose practical strategies to overcome them.

Cultural Competence:
- Awareness and understanding of the diverse cultural, social, and identity-related factors that impact addiction and treatment within different communities.
- Sensitivity to the unique needs of marginalized populations, including LGBTQ+ individuals, racial and ethnic minorities, and individuals from different socioeconomic backgrounds.

Flexibility and Adaptability:
- Ability to adapt to evolving project requirements, embrace new ideas, and incorporate feedback from stakeholders.
- Willingness to learn and stay updated on the latest research and developments in addiction treatment and medication-assisted recovery.

Ethical Awareness:
- Knowledge of ethical considerations and confidentiality requirements when working with individuals seeking addiction treatment and handling sensitive data.
- Commitment to maintaining professional boundaries and upholding ethical standards throughout the project.

Preferred Skills (if any):

Work Arrangements (preference for how the selected student will complete the project):
Project can be completed through a hybrid model, some time in-person and some time remote.

Is personal transportation required of a selected student?
No, public transportation is readily available for in-person tasks.