

Community Services Grants Program

Strategic Framework 2021-2026

Partnering with Nonprofits to Support a Thriving Howard County

Since 1974, Howard County Government has been committed to investing in the nonprofit sector to deliver critical human services through the Community Services Partnership (CSP) Grant Program. CSP has grown significantly since its inception, from 5 grantees and a total award of \$128,000 to 46 grantees and a total award of \$8.4 million in FY20.

In early 2020, after 45 years of administering CSP grants, the Office of Community Partnerships engaged over 260 diverse constituents to create a nimble, high-impact grant program that responds to the changing needs, challenges, and opportunities facing Howard County. Rooted in measurable outcomes and collaboration, the redesigned grant program targets investments in nonprofits that equitably and effectively deliver programs and support to individuals and families in Howard County who lack adequate resources or are facing financial hardships.

Addressing Emerging and Changing Needs

After months of data analysis, input gathering and discussions with local community leaders, the Office of Community Partnerships has determined that it will distribute all of its CSP grant dollars to the following areas of focus:

- **BASIC HUMAN NEEDS** — Equitably and collaboratively addressing the basic needs of Howard County residents to eliminate barriers to longer-term well-being, safety and security
- **SAFETY AND SECURITY** — Building the foundation for all residents to equitably access opportunities by investing in resources individuals need to grow and thrive

To measure impact, each area of focus has a series of Progress Indicators to help guide the assessment of our collective progress and inform program and agency-level performance. You can see the full list of indicators in our Community Services Partnership Grant Program report at www.howardcountymd.gov/OCP.



To learn more, visit our website at www.howardcountymd.gov/OCP or contact Megan Godfrey Jackson, CSP Program Manager, at mgodfrey@howardcountymd.gov.

Investing in Three Grant Types

In alignment with the two funding areas of focus, CSP grants will be awarded through the following grant types:

- **CORE SUPPORT GRANTS**
Supports day-to-day operations and long-term organizational sustainability. For the first time, multi-year funding may be requested for up to three years.
- **PROGRAM SUPPORT GRANTS**
 - **Safety, Security and Wellbeing Grants** — supports a specific program within an organization to address Basic Human Needs and/or Safety and Security
 - **Human Service Transportation Grants** — funds transportation services for adults with disabilities to access employment, health care and social services
 - **Plan to End Homelessness (PEH) Grants** — supports priority services under the [Howard County Plan to End Homelessness](#)
- **EMERGING NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITY GRANTS**
One-time grants for needs that emerge unexpectedly and impact the delivery of critical human services, and support:
 - **Emergency Needs** — provides financial resources to maintain service delivery in the event of an emergency, crisis or natural disaster
 - **Capacity-building** — improves an organization's effectiveness for measurable impact by strengthening management and governance, planning, processes, and infrastructure
 - **Collective Impact** — to design, build and manage collaborations between and among relevant sectors and organizations/entities to equitably address complex community challenges