



LOCAL CHILDREN'S BOARD

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND SERVICES

9830 Patuxent Woods Drive ■ Columbia, Maryland 21046 ■ 410-313-6400 voice/relay

Notice of Funding Opportunity

Youth and Family Enrichment & Opportunity Grants

Funding Period: January 1 – June 30, 2027

Funding Opportunity

The Howard County Office of the Local Children's Board (LCB), within the Department of Community Resources and Services (DCRS), is seeking applications from nonprofit organizations to support programs and projects that expand opportunities, strengthen well-being, and promote positive outcomes for Howard County youth and families.

Funding is intended to support either:

- **New projects** that address identified needs and create meaningful opportunities for youth and families; or
- **Enhancements or expansions of existing programs** that increase access, participation, quality, or impact.

All proposed activities must be provided **at no cost to participants**.

Available Funding

Grant awards will range from **\$15,000 to \$25,000**.

This is a competitive funding opportunity. Submission of an application does not guarantee an award. LCB may fund an application in whole or in part and may award an amount different from the amount requested.

Grant funds must be expended between **January 1 and June 30, 2027**. This is a one-time funding opportunity.

Eligible Applicants

Applicants must:

- Be a **nonprofit organization**;
- Have the organizational capacity to successfully implement the proposed project or program;
- Demonstrate experience serving youth and/or families; and

The Department of Community Resources and Services provides vital human services through its offices of ADA Coordination, Aging and Independence, Children and Families, Community Partnerships, Consumer Protection, Human Trafficking Prevention, Local Children's Board, and Veterans and Military Families.

- Be able to appropriately manage, document, and report on the use of grant funds.

Target Communities

Priority will be given to projects serving **economically disadvantaged youth and families** in LCB target communities and the schools serving those communities.

Serving an LCB target community or school is a funding preference, not an eligibility requirement. All projects must specifically target economically disadvantaged youth and families; applicants proposing to serve an LCB target community and/or school will receive priority consideration.

Target communities include:

- **Wilde Lake**
- **Harper's Choice**
- **Oakland Mills**
- **Owen Brown**
- **Long Reach**
- **North Laurel**
- **Deep Run (Elkridge)**

Projects may be community-based, school-based, or a combination of both. **Homewood Center is specifically included as a target school.**

Applicants should clearly identify the community and/or school(s) to be served and describe how the proposed project will reach youth and families experiencing economic disadvantage.

Areas of Focus

LCB will consider projects and existing program enhancements or expansions focused on one or more of the following areas:

1. **Afterschool Programming**
2. **Arts, Culture, and Creative Expression**
3. **College and Career Readiness**
4. **Enhancing Youth Voice**
5. **Family and Community Engagement**
6. **Life Skills and Financial Literacy**
7. **Mentoring**
8. **Recreation and Wellness**
9. **STEM Programming**
10. **Youth and Community Violence Prevention**
11. **Youth Leadership**
12. **Youth Mental Health and Trauma**

Proposed activities should be responsive to the needs, interests, and strengths of the youth and families being served and should provide meaningful opportunities for participation, connection, skill-building, and/or positive development.

STEM Funding Consideration: For selected STEM projects, LCB is considering an award structure that may include STEM Center materials along with a small cash award. Materials under consideration include robotics, Snap Circuits, a 3D printer, 3D printer filament, batteries, laptops, storage equipment, tables, and chairs. Applicants proposing STEM activities should describe how these materials and/or cash support would be used to strengthen the proposed project.

Priority Population

Projects must specifically target **youth and families who are economically disadvantaged**.

Applicants should describe:

- The population to be served;
- The number and age range of youth and/or families expected to participate;
- The specific target community and/or school(s);
- How participants will be identified and recruited; and
- How the project will reduce barriers to participation and ensure equitable access.

Eligible Project Costs

Grant funds may support reasonable and necessary costs associated with implementing the proposed project or enhancing an existing program, including personnel, program supplies and materials, contracted services, activities, and other direct project expenses.

All activities supported through this grant must be offered at no cost to participants.

Expenses must be reasonable, necessary, directly related to the approved project, and supported by appropriate fiscal documentation.

Application Requirements

Applications should be concise, no more than 8 pages (not including the budget) and address the following:

1. Organization

Provide a brief description of your organization, its experience serving youth and/or families, and why your organization is well positioned to implement the proposed project.

2. Project Description

Describe the proposed project or existing program enhancement, including:

- What will be provided;
- Whether the request is for a new project or enhancement/expansion of an existing program;

For an enhancement or expansion of an existing program, clearly describe what the LCB funding will add or change, such as additional participants, services, activities, capacity, access, quality, or impact.

- The goals and intended outcomes;

- The activities that will be offered; and
- The anticipated number of participants.

3. Target Population and Community

Identify the target community and/or school(s), including Homewood Center where applicable, and describe how the project will specifically serve economically disadvantaged youth and families.

4. Community Need and Engagement

Describe the need or opportunity the project addresses and, where applicable, how input from youth, families, schools, residents, or community partners informed the proposed approach.

5. Partnerships and Implementation

Identify key partners and describe their roles, if applicable. Provide a brief implementation timeline for activities occurring between January 1 and June 30, 2027.

Applicants should identify the anticipated start date for participant-facing activities and demonstrate readiness to implement the proposed project within the funding period.

6. Outcomes and Evaluation

Describe the anticipated outcomes for youth and/or families and how your organization will measure participation, progress, and/or impact.

7. Budget

Provide a detailed budget using the template provided with the NOFO for the requested amount, between **\$15,000 and \$25,000**, and a brief explanation of how grant funds will be used. The budget narrative should be provided by line item using both a description and formula for how you derived each amount. *For example, if you have \$500 in program supplies your narrative could say \$25 per participant for program supplies for a total of 20 participants.*

Post-Award Documentation: Awardees will be required to provide appropriate programmatic and fiscal documentation supporting participation, expenditures, progress toward outcomes, and agreed-upon deliverables. Additional reporting requirements and documentation expectations will be communicated to selected awardees.

Funding Considerations

Applications will be reviewed based on the extent to which the proposed project:

- Serves economically disadvantaged youth and families, with priority consideration for projects serving an LCB target community and/or school;
- Aligns with one or more LCB funding priorities;
- Addresses an identified community need or opportunity;
- Provides meaningful and accessible opportunities for youth and families;
- Demonstrates a clear and feasible plan for implementation during the funding period;
- Demonstrates readiness to begin participant-facing activities within the funding period and a feasible plan to implement the proposed activities within the available timeframe;
- Demonstrates a realistic strategy for identifying, recruiting, reaching, and engaging the intended participants;
- Has measurable and meaningful intended outcomes; and

- Presents a reasonable and appropriate use of grant funds.

Key Dates

Notice of Funding Opportunity Released: September 25, 2026

Information Session: October 5, 2026 at 11:00am via teams – Register here to receive the link to the information session: [Register Here](#)

Questions Due: October 23, 2026

Applications Due: October 30, 2026

Award Notifications: December 20, 2026

Funding Period: January 1 – June 30, 2027

Submission

Applications should be submitted electronically to:

Howard County Office of the Local Children’s Board

Department of Community Resources and Services

Email: lcb@howardcountymd.gov

Questions regarding this funding opportunity may be submitted to lcb@howardcountymd.gov.

The Howard County Office of the Local Children’s Board is committed to expanding equitable access to opportunities and supports that help children, youth, and families thrive. Through this funding opportunity, LCB seeks to invest in community-based solutions that respond to the strengths, needs, and priorities of Howard County youth and families.