



Baltimore
Metropolitan
Council

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BMC THANKS ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION FOR OPPORTUNITY COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP

BALTIMORE, MD (April 12, 2016) – [The Annie E. Casey Foundation](#), which partnered with the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) through the work of the Opportunity Collaborative, received the Secretary’s Award for Public-Philanthropic Partnerships from the [Council on Foundations](#) and the [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\)](#) on **Sunday, April 10.**

HUD Deputy Secretary Nani A. Coloretti presented the Annie E. Casey Foundation with the award during the Council on Foundation’s [2016 Annual Conference](#), “The Future of Community – Identity. Purpose. Place.” at the Washington Hilton in Washington, D.C. This award emphasizes cross-sector partnerships between the philanthropic and public sectors. The goal is to recognize the partnership process and its impact as a community strategy to increase the quality of life for low- and moderate-income residents across all American geographies — urban, suburban, and rural.

“We are truly honored to be recognized by the Council on Foundations and HUD for our effort to work with local partners to build stronger communities, strengthen families and ensure access to opportunity in the Baltimore region,” said Scot Spencer, associate director for advocacy and influence of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. “BMC served as a vital coordinator in bringing together key stakeholders in the Baltimore region for the work that we did with the Opportunity Collaborative.”

From 2011 to 2015, the [Opportunity Collaborative](#) served as a consortium of local governments, state agencies, universities and nonprofit organizations to create the [Baltimore Regional Plan for Sustainable Development \(RPSD\)](#). The Annie E. Casey Foundation served as an integral member of the Collaborative. Scot Spencer served as co-chair of the Collaborative.

BMC, as the council of governments for the Baltimore region, provided the Collaborative with technical and staff support through a **\$3.5 million** HUD Sustainable Communities grant.

“Creating the Baltimore Regional Plan for Sustainable Development, along with the Casey Foundation and more than 25 other local organizations, serves as an important first step in improving the economic vitality and quality of life in the Baltimore region,” said BMC Executive Director Michael Kelly. “There is no way our planning process would have been such a success without the backing and support of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.”

In 2016, BMC is working to implement several recommendations of the RPSD. For example, the project-based voucher program will create new affordable housing options in areas of opportunity throughout the region.

“Our region thrives when the public, private and philanthropic sectors come together in pursuit of our common goals. The Casey Foundation has long been a critical partner in lifting communities and families. This recognition is well deserved,” said Harford County Executive Barry Glassman, who serves as the chair of the BMC Board of Directors.

These efforts in the Baltimore region also fit in with state and national efforts to encourage regional planning in transportation, housing and workforce development.

“Whether it's workforce, housing or transportation, the State has an important role to play in encouraging regional planning and cross-sector coordination. The RPSD provides policy makers and advocates an invaluable resource to help shape a brighter future for all residents in the Baltimore region,” said Maryland State Del. Stephen Lafferty, of the BMC Board of Directors.

The Council on Foundations is a nonprofit leadership association of grantmaking foundations and corporations. It provides the opportunity, leadership and tools needed by philanthropic organizations to expand, enhance and sustain their ability to advance the common good. The council empowers professionals in philanthropy to meet today's toughest challenges and advances a culture of charitable giving in the U.S. and globally.

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The Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) works collaboratively with the chief elected officials in the region to create initiatives to improve the quality of life and economic vitality. BMC, as the Baltimore region's council of governments (COG), hosts the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB), the federal metropolitan planning organization (MPO), and supports local government by coordinating efforts in a range of policy areas including emergency preparedness, housing, cooperative purchasing, environmental planning and workforce development.

BMC's Board of Directors includes the executives of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Harford and Howard counties, the mayor of the City of Baltimore, a member of the Carroll County Board of Commissioners, a member of the Maryland State Senate, a member of the Maryland House of Delegates, and a gubernatorial appointee from the private sector.