Baltimore Women's Giving Circle

Applicant Orientation

2027 Grant Cycle

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Mission and Vision
- Our Changing Environment
- Grant Criteria and Eligibility Requirements
- A Word About AI
- Timeline
- The Grant Application
- BWGC Online Application & Web Site Access
- Q&A

Welcome!

Our goals for today:

- Help you decide whether to apply for a BWGC grant by explaining our criteria, process, and timeline
- Give you an opportunity to ask questions

Introductions

- Evelyn Amaral, and Pamela Pasqualini, Grants Co-chairs
- Mary Jo Wiese, Circle Co-chair
- Mary-Ann Pinkard, Grants Administrator
- Ieva Skriver, IT Administrator

BALTIMORE WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE

Our Mission:

Through collective giving and collaboration, the Baltimore Women's Giving Circle supports organizations that advance opportunities for women and their families in Baltimore City and Baltimore County.

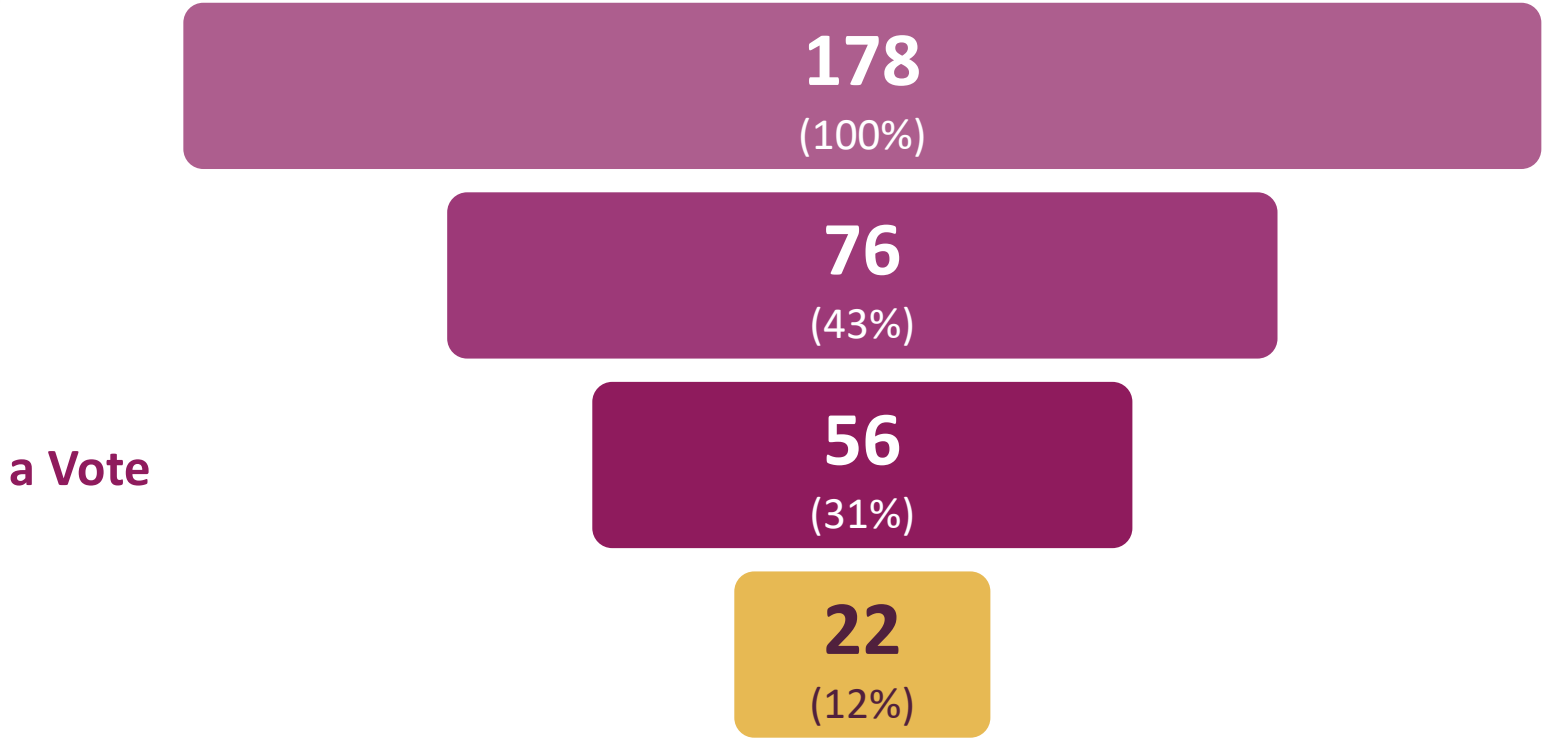
Our Vision:

The Baltimore Women's Giving Circle contributes to a more just, equitable, and inclusive Baltimore where all women can flourish.

Changing Environment

- **Unpredictable policies** at the federal level affecting availability of state and city grants
- More non-profits applying for funds from **fewer sources**
- Harder to find **fiscal sponsors**
- **Greater community need**

Our 2026 Experience-What are the Odds?



Grant Amounts, Duration, and Reapplication

- We award a maximum of **$25,000** per organization
- Grants are awarded for **one-year periods**
- Grantees must **wait a year** before applying for another grant
- Those who are not awarded a grant may **reapply the following year**

Eligibility

- **Nonprofit organizations** that advance opportunities for women and their families
- **Focus on adult women and girls.** Among applicants serving women and men, priority goes to those serving **at least 75% women**
- **Serve Baltimore City and/or Baltimore County**
- **Meet all eligibility criteria**

Our Mission & Vision

Our Mission

Supports nonprofits advancing opportunities for women and their families in Baltimore City and Baltimore County.

Our Vision

A just, equitable and inclusive Baltimore where all women can flourish.

Applicants must describe how their organization's mission or programs align with BWGC's Mission and Values.

Focus on Adult Women and Girls

Primary focus

Organizations serving adult women and adolescent girls ages 12–18

Also eligible

Organizations serving children ages 11 and under

75%

For programs serving women and men, priority goes to applicants serving at least 75% women.

How reader teams apply this

Applications go to reader teams. When choosing between two applicants serving women and men, readers use this rule of thumb and select the applicant serving a larger percentage of women.

The 2026 Readers Survey clearly identified grant readers' preferences for the populations Circle grants should serve. There is a "Population Served" section in the application

Eligibility: IRS & Financial Status

Nonprofit status

Your organization's nonprofit status must be current.

Financial documentation

- Submit the latest versions of all required financial documents with your application.
- If unavailable, attach a Word or PDF document explaining when you can provide them.
- Delays may affect reviewers' decisions on your application.

Ineligible Expenses

- Capital improvements
- Event tickets or event sponsorship
- Annual drives or annual giving campaigns
- Political activities or political action committees
- Deficit reduction
- Endowment funds
- Projects requiring adherence to or acceptance of a particular religious belief, or participation in a religious service or practice

A Word About AI

Use AI selectively

Improve clarity, grammar, transitions, and length.

Keep it authentic

Use real stories and your organization's natural voice.

Check every detail

Applicants remain responsible for accuracy and originality.

Protect privacy

Remove names and identifying details before sharing drafts.

Application and Grant Review Timeline

November 1	Online grant portal opens
December 15, 5:00 pm	Online grant portal closes
Late January – early February	Evaluation begins. Trained volunteer readers check basic criteria and select applicants for site visits.
February – mid-March	Site visits take place. Readers review findings and select applicants to advance to a vote.
April – May	Two rounds of voting determine awards
Mid-May	Grants awarded
End of May	Grant recipients and applicants not funded receive notification
June	Grant agreements signed and funds distributed, with funds sent by July 1

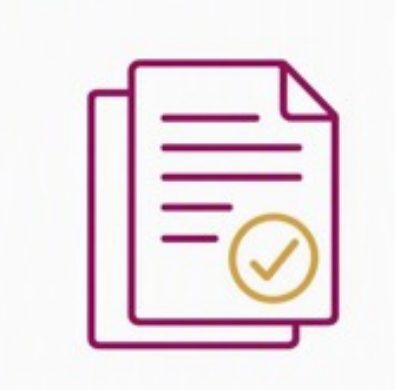
BWGC Grant Reviewers Look For…

Mission fit

Women and/or their families in Baltimore City and/or County

Funding fit

The funds requested align with those that are described in this presentation



Required documents

Determination letter, financial statements, and applicable grant budgets

The Grant Application

I. Organization Information

II. Organization History and Mission Alignment

III. Grant Request

IV. Narrative

V. IRS Compliance

VI. Financial information and Documents

***The Application Guide is an excellent resource for completing the application.**

Part I
Organization Information

- Organization's name, address, contact information
- Non-Profit Status - what organization holds the IRS Letter of Determination
- Website URL and Social Media Handles
- Applicant's Current Fiscal Budget
- Applicant's Number of Years in Operation

Part II
Organization History & Mission Alignment

- Brief Organization History: How it began and evolved over time
- Applicant's Mission
- Alignment with BWGC Mission and Vision
  - **This is the most important criterion for evaluating grant applications**
  - This can apply to the whole organization or a specific program, depending on your grant request

Part III
Grant Request

Amount

- Any amount up to $25,000

Type of Grant Choices

- General Operating Grant
- Program Grant

There is no advantage in choosing one grant type over the other.

Part III
Grant Request

- You can submit only one grant application per grant cycle
- Independent entities within an umbrella organization may apply for a grant in the same grant cycle
- Independent organizations linked only by the same fiscal sponsor and with separate leadership may apply during the same grant cycle
- All grant funds must be spent within the one-year grant period - July 1, 2027 through June 30, 2028

Part III
Grant Request Type

General Operating Grant

- For organizations whose ***overall mission is aligned with BWGC's Mission & Vision***
- Organizations of any size can apply ***if*** they meet this criteria
- *Unrestricted* funding allows you to direct resources to where they are most needed; can be used for general operating expenses
- Assignment of funds as a specific budget line item not required

Part III
Grant Request Type

Program Grants

- Intended for organizations whose missions are broader than the Circle's, but which offer a ***distinct program that is focused on women and their families***
- *Restricted* funding that can only be used for the participants and program described in the application
- Eligible expenses must be directly tied to delivering the program

Part III
Grant Request Type

Considerations based on past grantee experience:

- Childcare: If young mothers are involved, will you provide childcare?
- Transportation: Will transportation be needed and how will you help?
- Time Schedules: Will your service meet participants' time schedule?
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse: How will you deal with mental health and substance abuse issues that may arise?
- Recruitment and Retention: How will you recruit and retain participants?

Part III
Grant Request

Grant Name

- General Operating Grant – if applying for that type
- Program Name/Title – if applying for a Program Grant

Grant Request Summary

- In one to two sentences, describe how you plan to use the funds
- Note how important funds are for the success of your organization's mission or your program objective

Part III
Grant Request

Funding Categories are organized under 6 community initiatives

- Crisis Response & Basic Needs Stabilization
- Health, Behavioral Health and Trauma Services
- Economic Stability and Mobility
- Education and Skill Building
- Family, Youth and Aging Support
- Access, Advocacy and Legal Support

Grant Categories (1 of 2)

Select ONE category that best describes the work advancing opportunities for women and their families that this grant would support.

Crisis Response and Basic Needs Stabilization

Immediate stabilization and survival needs

- ❑ Emergency services/grants
- ❑ Food/hunger services
- ❑ Housing
- ❑ Other

Health, Behavioral Health and Trauma Services

Physical health, mental health, and trauma recovery

- ❑ Health services
- ❑ Drugs and alcohol treatment
- ❑ Mental health treatment
- ❑ Domestic/sexual violence
- ❑ Other

Economic Stability and Mobility

Income, employment, and financial capability

- ❑ Workforce development
- ❑ Financial literacy
- ❑ Other

If none fits, select Other under the closest initiative and describe your category at the end of the list.

Grant Categories (2 of 2)

Select ONE category that best describes the work advancing opportunities for women and their families that this grant would support.

Education and Skill Building

Learning and long-term capacity building

- ❑ Education/literacy
- ❑ Life skills
- ❑ Other

Family, Youth and Aging Support

Household stability and targeted population support

- ❑ Parenting skills
- ❑ Mentoring
- ❑ Services to seniors
- ❑ Other

Access, Advocacy and Legal Support

Removing barriers and navigating systems

- ❑ Advocacy
- ❑ Legal services
- ❑ Case management/referral
- ❑ Other

If none fits, select Other under the closest initiative and describe your category at the end of the list.

Part III
Grant Request

Geographic Area: Baltimore City, Baltimore County, or both

Populations Served: The Circle focuses on applicants serving adult women and adolescent girls aged 12-18. If the applicant serves both men and women, the Circle gives priority to those which serve at least 75% women. The Circle also accepts applications from organizations serving children aged 11 and under.

There is a chart on the application to record population data.

Part III
Grant Request

Population group	Number of individuals
Adult women	
Adult men	
Adolescent girls (ages 12–18)	
Adolescent boys (ages 12–18)	
Children: boys and girls (ages 11 and under)	

In the application, report how many people in each group your organization or the program seeking funding will serve.

Part IV
The Narrative

Perspective

- For a ***General Operating Grant*****,** answer from the perspective of your entire organization
- For a ***Program Grant*****,** answer based on the goals and objectives of the specific program to be supported by the grant. Note whether it is for a new or continuing program.

Part IV
The Narrative

It is critical to convey how your work aligns with the BWGC Mission and Vision

- What **community issue** does your organization/program address and how do you plan to address it?
- How you know that your work is **making a difference**?
- How does your organization's leadership **engage** women and their families in its work?
- **What else** would you like to tell us that we haven't asked?

Part V
IRS Compliance

- In this section we ask that you upload the ***IRS 501(c)(3) Letter of Determination*** to confirm the organization is classified as a public charity and is tax exempt under IRS 501(c)(3) status
- The organization holding the letter may be:
  - ***the applicant***
  - ***the applicant's fiscal sponsor***
  - ***the state or national organization*** of which the applicant is a chapter or branch with the same name and mission

Part V
IRS Compliance

You also will need to provide:

- The Employer Identification Number (EIN) of the organization that holds the IRS 501 (c)(3) determination letter
- The start and end dates for the fiscal year (12-month accounting period) reported in the most recent IRS Form 990, 990-EZ or 990-N to confirm that the organization is compliant with IRS filing requirements

Part VI
Financial Information and Documents

This section asks for financial information and identifies the items that need to be uploaded

- Accounting period (fiscal year) start and end dates
- Budget size
- Item 1: Audited Financial Statement or IRS Form 990 for organization holding the IRS 501(c)(3) Determination Letter
  - If you do not have audited financial statements, upload the most recently filed IRS Form 990, 990-EZ or 990-N

Part VI
Financial Information and Documents

- Item 2: Financial Statement for the most recently completed (prior) Fiscal Year (include revenue, expense and balance sheet)/Accounting period (fiscal year)
- Item 3: Financial Statement and Budget for Current Fiscal Year (through September 30, 2026).
- Item 4: Program Budget (if requesting a Program Grant). It should include expected sources of revenue and expenses for the BWGC grant period (July 1, 2027 – June 30, 2028). If you are requesting a General Operating Grant, this item is not needed.

Part VI
Financial Information and Documents

If you can't provide the financial information required for your type of funding requested, please attach:

- A Word or PDF document that explains **when** you will provide the requested information
- Keep in mind that we have a narrow calendar for reviewing grants, and without the documents your grant cannot be approved

Links to BWGC Budget templates are provided for your convenience or you may supply your own statements

More Details Online

Website: www.thebwgc.org

Apply For A Grant

- Important Information and Dates
- Application Guide
- Application Portal

Email: grants@thebwgc.org

QUESTIONS?

Website: thebwgc.org **Email: grants@thebwgc.org**

The Baltimore Women's Giving Circle Online Application

https://www.thebwgc.org

BALTIMORE WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE

Search...

About Us | Join Us | Grantees | Circle News | Apply For A Grant | Donate | Login

The Baltimore Women's Giving Circle brings together women with a common goal of supporting opportunities for women and their families in greater Baltimore through grant-making.

400 +
MEMBERS

$8.4 M+
INVESTED

215+
PROGRAMS HELPED

Join Us | Grantees | Contact Us | FAQs | Make a Donation

Apply for a Grant

Welcome to the Baltimore Women's Giving Circle 2027 Grant Cycle

Thank you for your interest in applying for a Baltimore Women's Giving Circle (BWGC) grant. We look forward to learning more about your organization and its impact on women in Baltimore City and Baltimore County.

The BWGC favors applications that demonstrate alignment of the applicant organization's mission, or the purpose of a specific program for which a grant is requested, with the BWGC Mission and Vision. For the Circle, Mission and Vision alignment is the most important criterion for evaluating grant applications:

Our Mission - Through collective giving and collaboration, the BWGC supports organizations that advance opportunities for women and their families in Baltimore City and Baltimore County.

Our Vision - The BWGC contributes to a more just, equitable, and inclusive Baltimore where all women can flourish.

Populations Served - The Circle focuses on applicants that serve adult women and adolescent girls aged 12-18. If the applicant serves both women and men, the Circle gives priority to those which serve at least 75% women. The Circle also accepts applications from organizations serving children aged 11 and under.

Important Dates

October 1, 2026

Grant Portal Opens for Read-Only Application Access

November 1, 2026

Grant Portal Opens with Interactive Application

November 2, 2026, 9:30 AM - 11:00AM

Zoom Information Session for Applicants

November 4, 2026 , 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Zoom Information Session for Applicants

We strongly encourage participation in these sessions. Click on the date to register.

A recording of the session will be made available on this site.

December 15, 2026, 5:00 PM

Grant Application Portal closes

Introduction to the 2027 Grant Application

Eligibility requirements.

LEARN MORE

Our Grant Process

Important deadlines and timeline.

LEARN MORE

Application Portal and Application Guide

BWGC is here to help.

LEARN MORE

Application Portal and Application Guide

The BWGC is Here to Help

We strongly encourage you to review the **Grant Application Guide** before you begin completing your application online. While you will find general instructions in the application itself, the Grant Application Guide provides detailed instructions for completing the six parts of the application and an itemized list of required documents to be included with your application.

You are welcome to ask questions or make comments **anytime during the application process** via email to **grants@thebwgc.org.** We value your input and will respond within three business days.

To learn more about our Grants Application process, please join us at one of the following virtual information sessions. We will discuss the importance of alignment with our mission and vision, funding eligibility requirements, and the type of grants we offer. We will also review recent application updates and discuss our selection process.

We strongly suggest that one or two members of your organization attend one of the virtual application information sessions.

Click on one of the following dates to register:

November 2, 2026, 9:30-11:00 AM

November 4, 2026, 1:30-3:00 PM

For those who cannot attend a recording will be posted on this site by November 11, 2026.

We encourage you to sign up for our **Applicant Mailing List** to receive grant notices and important deadline dates.

Click on the links below to access the:

- **PDF version of the Grant Application**
- **Grant Application Guide**
- **BWGC Template Program Budget**
- **Grant Portal (opens on October 1; interactive on November 1)**

The PDF version of the Grant Application is for review only. It cannot be used to apply for a grant by mail. The PDF version may be slightly different from the interactive online version due to the technical requirements of our online grants management system. **All applications must be submitted online through the Grant Application Portal.**

Logon

Email Address*

Password*

Log On | Create New Account

Forgot your Password?

Welcome to the Baltimore Women's Giving Circle's online grant portal.

New Users: Please click on "Create New Account" to complete the registration process and create your logon credentials.

Existing Users: Please enter your credentials and log in. If you forgot your password, please use the "Forgot your Password" link to the left to reset your password.

Not Sure? If you think that you or someone at your organization has already registered in the system, do not create a new account. Please contact the foundation at grants@thebwgc.org to receive your username and password.

Cancel Account Creation

Fields with an asterisk (*) are required.

Organization Information

Organization Name*
BWGC Grant Applicant

EIN / Tax Identification Number*
99-9999999

Web Site

Telephone Number*
410-555-1212

Fax Number

Organization Email

Address 1*
123 Main Street

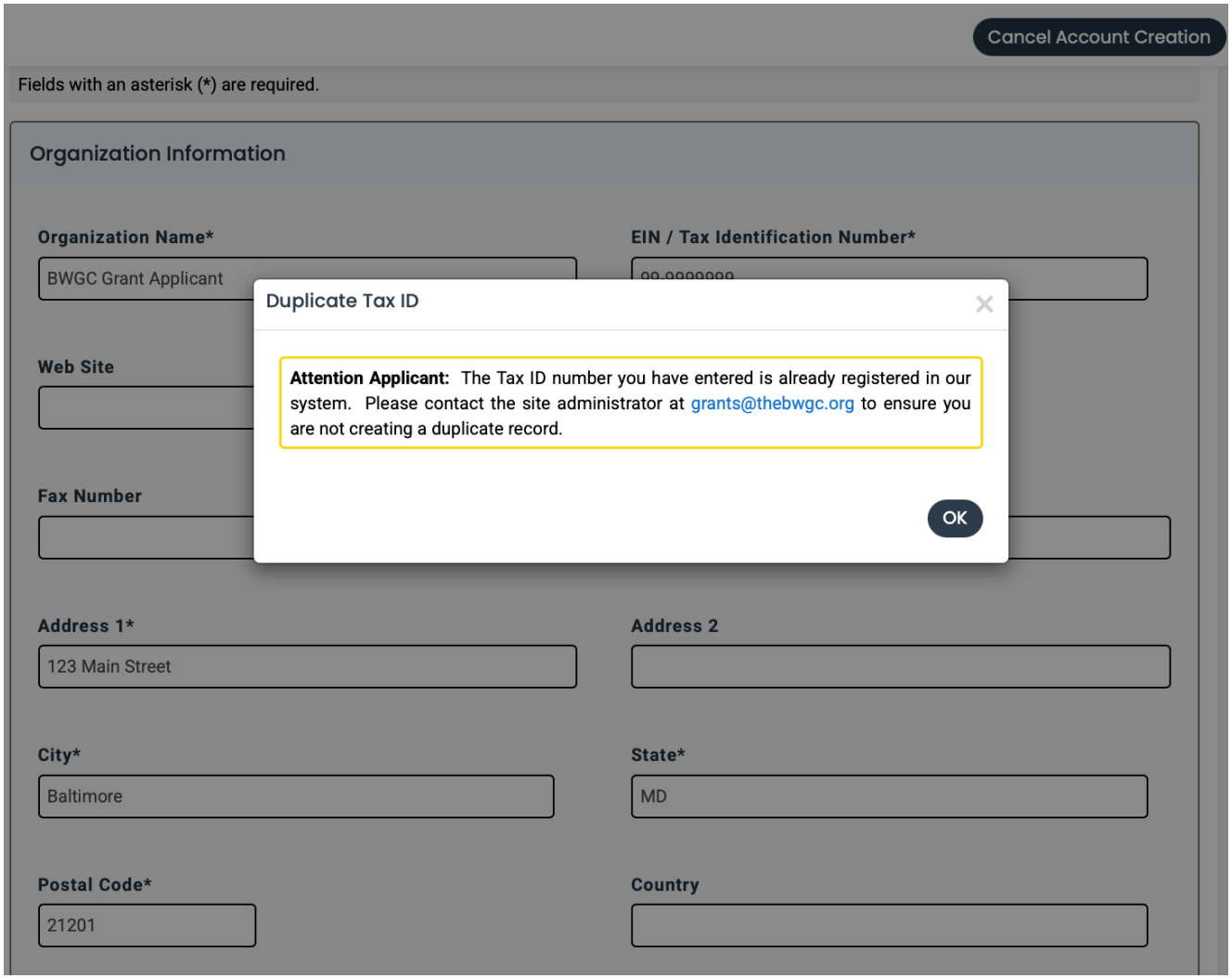
Address 2

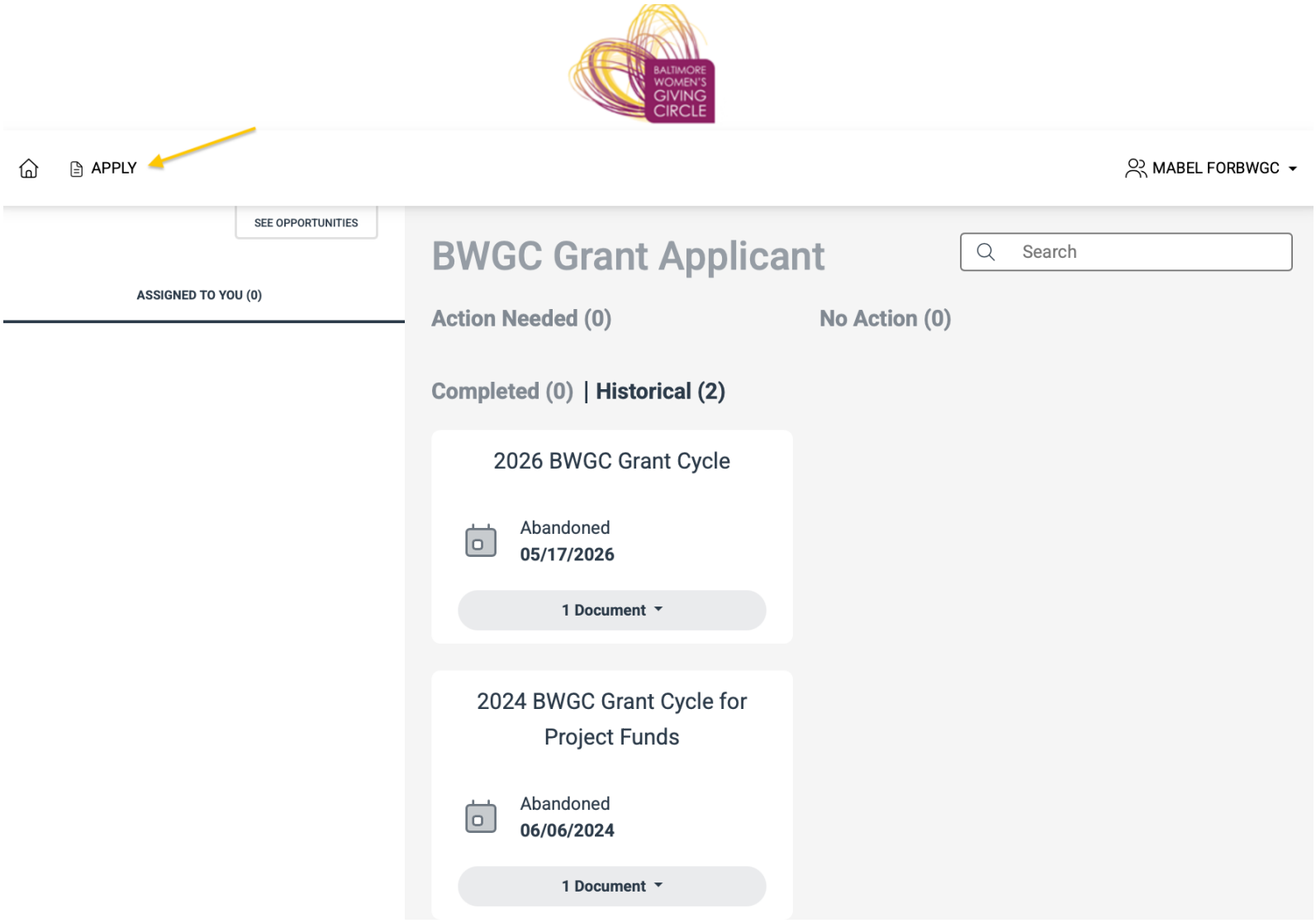
City*
Baltimore

State*
MD

Postal Code*
21201

Country


Cancel Account Creation
Fields with an asterisk (*) are required.
Organization Information
Organization Name*
BWGC Grant Applicant
EIN / Tax Identification Number*
99-9999999
Web Site
Fax Number
Duplicate Tax ID
Attention Applicant: The Tax ID number you have entered is already registered in our system. Please contact the site administrator at grants@thebwgc.org to ensure you are not creating a duplicate record.
OK
Address 1*
123 Main Street
Address 2
City*
Baltimore
State*
MD
Postal Code*
21201
Country


APPLY
MABEL FORBWGC
SEE OPPORTUNITIES
ASSIGNED TO YOU (0)
BWGC Grant Applicant
Search
Action Needed (0)
No Action (0)
Completed (0) | Historical (2)
2026 BWGC Grant Cycle
Abandoned
05/17/2026
1 Document
2024 BWGC Grant Cycle for Project Funds
Abandoned
06/06/2024
1 Document

APPLY

MABEL FORBWGC

BWGC Grant Applicant

Search

2027 BWGC Grant Cycle

Closes
12/15/2026

Preview

Apply

Application

Process: 2027 BWGC Grant Cycle

Contact Info | Request | Documents 0

Applicant:
Mabel Forbwgc
map4bwgc@gmail.com
410-555-1212
123 Main Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

Contact Email History

Organization:
BWGC Grant Applicant
99-9999999
410-555-1212
123 Main Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

If your Organization information does not appear correct, please contact Baltimore Women's Giving Circle. Thank you.

APPLY

Mabel Forbwgc

Application

Question List

Due by 12/15/2025 05:00 PM EST.

Fields with an asterisk (*) are required.

- Instructions
- Part I. Organization Information
- Part II. Organization History and Mission Alignment
- Part III. Grant Request
- Part IV. Narrative
- Part V. IRS Compliance
- Part VI. Financial Information and Documents

Due by 12/15/2025 05:00 PM EST.

Abandon Request

Save Application

Submit Application

Populations Served

The Circle focuses on applicants serving adult women and adolescent girls, aged 12-18. If the applicant serves both men and women, the Circle gives priority to those which serve at least 75% women. The Circle also accepts applications from organizations serving children aged 11 and under.

Enter the number of individuals for each population group that you expect to serve during the grant period. If you are requesting a General Operating Grant, enter the number of individuals you anticipate your organization will serve. If you are requesting a Program Grant, enter the number of individuals you anticipate serving through the program.

Population Group	Number of Individuals
Adult women	#
Adult men	#
Adolescent girls (ages 12 - 18)	#
Adolescent boys (ages 12 - 18)	#
Children: girls and boys (ages 11 and under)	#
Other	#

QUESTIONS?

Website: thebwgc.org **Email:** grants@thebwgc.org