# BALTIMORE CAPITAL PROJECTS EQUITY ANALYSIS (FY14-20)

**The capital improvement program** is the budget for capital improvements in the City. A capital improvement is a long-term investment, typically in physical infrastructure, such as roads, monuments, public buildings, parks, or art.

Using the equity lens established in the newly-adopted Baltimore Sustainability Plan, several **equity indicators** from the Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance Vital Signs report were chosen to measure how Baltimore's CIP allocations are distributed within communities. *These included race and income*.

This analysis of the CIP integrates a **structural** and **distributional** equity analysis, drawing on a four-part equity lens adopted by the Department of Planning in 2017.

The goal of this project is to develop a baseline, capturing the distribution of current and recent investments. From this baseline, a strategy for a more equitable distribution will be built.

## Methodology

This report analyzes the distribution of *capital improvement* appropriations (see definition at left) from FY14-20 compared to the distribution of various *equity indicators* to understand who is likely benefiting from capital improvements.

The report includes analysis of all projects from FY14-20 *where a location can be identified*, which ranges from between 20% to 60% of the total funds in the CIP.

The CIP investment projects included in this study are broken into three categories based on the geographic impact of each project:

- Projects with a small footprint, largely beneficial solely to the community that they were located within were categorized as "Local".
- Projects with a slightly larger, multi-neighborhood impact, were classed as "Multi-Neighborhood".
- The third and final category, "Citywide", was applied to projects that would impact the city as a whole.

Using this methodology, CIP allocations were calculated for all 55 Community Statistical Areas (CSAs) in Baltimore. CSAs are clusters of neighborhoods organized around census tract boundaries, which are consistent statistical boundaries.

Total values were normalized by the population size of each CSA-grouping to create per-capita spending.

# FINDINGS BY RACE

Based on the 3-year average per capita CIP allocations from FY 14-16 and FY 15-17, per capita spending allocated to neighborhoods with the highest percentage of Black/AA residents (>92%) was only half of that allocated to areas with the lowest percentage Black/AA ($3,849 versus $7,167 per capita) . In FY16-18, funding shifted **towards** the highest percentage Black/AA neighborhoods ($9,251 versus $8,770).
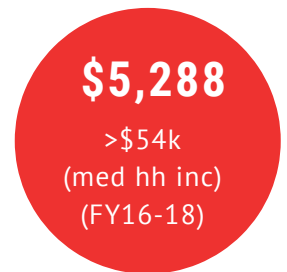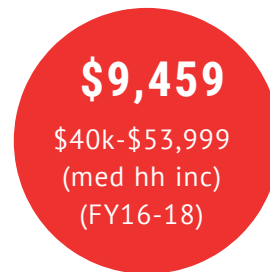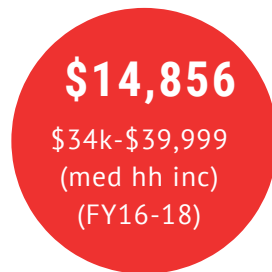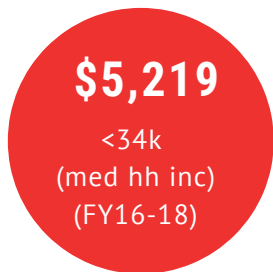
## $3,849

Distribution of capital spending to high-percentage Black neighborhoods (FY14-16)

## $9,251

Distribution of capital spending to high-percentage Black neighborhoods (FY16-18)

# FINDINGS BY INCOME

The total per capita CIP allocation in communities with median household income between $34,000 and $39,999 consistently had the highest values across all time periods. Per capita spending in these communities was more than double the spending in both lowest and the highest median income.

## $5,219
<34k
(med hh inc)
(FY16-18)

## $14,856
$34k-$39,999
(med hh inc)
(FY16-18)

## $9,459
$40k-$53,999
(med hh inc)
(FY16-18)

## $5,288
>$54k
(med hh inc)
(FY16-18)

# FINDINGS BY CSA

From FY14 to FY20, the total per capita allocations for projects with locations was highest in Penn North/Reservoir Hill, Greater Mondawmin, and Downtown/Seton Hill. Much of the allocation attributed to Penn North/Reservoir Hill and Greater Mondawmin can be attributed to large-scale projects with citywide impact such as the Druid Lake Reservoir. By contrast, Harbor East/Little Italy had the highest per capital allocation of projects with a more neighborhood-based impact, such as small parks and streetscaping.