



## **Education and Engagement:**

### ***Involving Community Residents in the Opportunity Collaborative***

Citizens Planning and Housing Association (CPHA) managed a thorough engagement process that ensured community and grassroots organizations were part of the regional plan. By partnering with these groups, more than 6,000 residents were able to participate from across greater Baltimore, primarily from traditionally underserved populations.

#### ***First Round: What Does Opportunity Mean to You?***

At the beginning, CPHA and partners shared information about the region and the Collaborative, and asked three key questions: what does opportunity mean to you; what prevents you from being connected to opportunity; and how can we all work together to get people and communities better connected to opportunity. For everyone involved, opportunity meant “a chance” – to have choices and options available; to have access to needed resources; and to take advantage of existing possibilities.

#### ***Second Round: Exploring Recommendations***

Building on those conversations, CPHA and others talked with residents to discuss how the regional plan’s recommendations could address the most significant barriers people experienced: a lack of adequate transportation; a lack of quality affordable housing; education; health conditions; criminal records; and a lack of information about what assistance was available to overcome these barriers. The second round also brought the whole region together for a summit at Coppin State on September 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### ***Third Round: Giving Your Community a Chance***

Finally, local summits brought this regional work into neighborhoods. Events took place at Arundel Mills; Clarksville; Dundalk; East Baltimore; Edgewood; Northeast Baltimore; Owings Mills; and Southwest Baltimore. Using a custom-designed exercise called Tic Tac Typology and the Opportunity Mapping done by the Collaborative, residents were able to share solutions and priorities for their own community.

#### ***Where Do We Go From Here? – Continuing to Involve Residents in Regional Efforts***

While the plan is finished, making sure that residents will be a part of regional solutions is ongoing. As the catalyst for civic action to bring about a healthy, inclusive Baltimore, with economically vibrant communities and opportunities for all people, CPHA will continue to bring people from throughout the region into the process of putting this plan into action.

#### **Partners:**

Anne Arundel County Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families / Associated Community Services of Howard County / BRIDGE / CASA de Maryland / Dundalk Renaissance Corporation / Goodwill Industries of the Chesapeake / Green and Healthy Homes Initiative / Growth Action Network / Project PLASE / Resident Services, Inc. / Southwest Partnership / United Workers / Urban Alliance

For more information, contact Steve Holt, Director of Community Engagement, at [steve@cphabaltimore.org](mailto:steve@cphabaltimore.org) or (410) 539-1369 x. 114