

# Recycling Inclusion Fund

Delivering Equitable Access for All



## Recycling Only Works if it Works for Everyone

Social justice is at the core of The Recycling Partnership's work, ensuring grant dollars serve diverse communities.

*Until it is as easy for every person to recycle as it is to throw something away, WE have work to do to create a more comprehensive and just system nationwide. The time for action is now.*

Help us address racial disparities in the U.S. recycling industry and help us close the recycling equity gap, so all residents have access to the resources and tools they need to live more sustainable lives.

Investing in an equitable recycling system today will unlock both the environmental and economic benefits of recycling and a circular economy for all people.

## Strategic Pillars

The Recycling Inclusion Fund directs contributions to 3 key areas:

### Research

To identify the state of recycling access and participation, and barriers and needs in BIPOC communities across the U.S.

**Impact:** Improved program efficiency to increase mature capture and empower residents so they can actively participate in recycling.

### Access and Education

To reach and empower BIPOC populations with recycling access and education resources that meet their needs.

**Impact:** Expanded range of household populations reached; increased household capture; achievement of equitable access for all.

### Leadership Training Programs

To host 10 Fellows by 2025 in the "Fellowship Through Partnership" Program, offering recent BIPOC college graduates the experience and training to advance as leaders in the sustainability sector.

**Impact:** Establishment of a diverse talent pipeline with exposure to the full recycling value chain; incorporation of diverse perspectives to deliver strong solutions.





## Why Invest Now?

- Only about 1/3 of recyclables in a home actually get recovered due to a lack of access, education and infrastructure.
- According to our Paying It Forward report, nearly 40 million Americans still lack equitable recycling access - the access rate is even lower in multifamily housing.
- Socioeconomically disadvantaged Black people and people of color (BIPOC) often have unequal access to recycling infrastructure and educational materials compared to more affluent neighborhoods.

We have the power to change things for the better and ensure that everyone can engage in recycling and participate in the circular economy regardless of where they live, the language they speak, or their socioeconomic status.

## Case Study: Public-Private Partnership in Baltimore

Baltimore was the 8th largest city in the U.S. without universal recycling access, with BIPOC populations representing nearly 70% of the city's demographics. Thanks to a public-private partnership, every eligible household is receiving curbside recycling and education materials at no cost, making the City's recycling services more equitable and resilient.

This grant enables waste diversion from landfills and incinerators, supporting greater environmental justice as well as the City's long-term plans to achieve zero waste by giving every household in the City a free recycling container.

## Join Us Today

The Inclusion Fund is raising \$5 million by 2025.  
Partner with us to scale meaningful change.

Contact Jessica Levine at [jlevine@recyclingpartnership.org](mailto:jlevine@recyclingpartnership.org) for more info.

## Thank you to our funders

