

# RECYCLING INCLUSION FUND

DELIVERING EQUAL ACCESS FOR ALL



## Recycling Only Works if it Works for Everyone

Since The Recycling Partnership's start six years ago, we have considered the social justice angle of our work, ensuring grant dollars serve diverse communities. We know that before we can implore the public to recycle, people need the service, containers, and information necessary to do so. Unfortunately for half of all Americans, that still isn't the case.

*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.*

## Join us in building equal access to recycling for all.

We are launching the Recycling Inclusion Fund and calling on corporate changemakers to join us in our strategic efforts to deliver an equitable recycling system, ensuring Black people and people of color have equal access to recycling services.

## Recycling Inclusion Fund Summary

Through this Fund, we will be directing grant dollars toward investment in recycling infrastructure and education, training and leadership modules for communities, and research into the challenges that prevent a more equitable recycling system.

- **Infrastructure and Education:** The Fund will provide recycling infrastructure and education resources for people and families that are excluded from fully participating because of where they live or the language they speak.
- **Training and Leadership Modules for Communities:** Professional development training and leadership mentoring is crucial for advancing people of color and women in leadership roles within the solid waste and recycling industry. We'll connect recruitment back to the community by developing a program for students from under-represented demographics within our grantee communities.
- **Research:** The Fund will support baseline research to understand the systemic exclusion of underserved populations and how to address those inequities in the near to long term.



## The Recycling Partnership is the premier change agent in recycling.

Recycling is a loosely connected network of players that require a coordinating, grant-making, bridge-building, problem solver. The Recycling Partnership delivers measurable results.

### Overall Approach

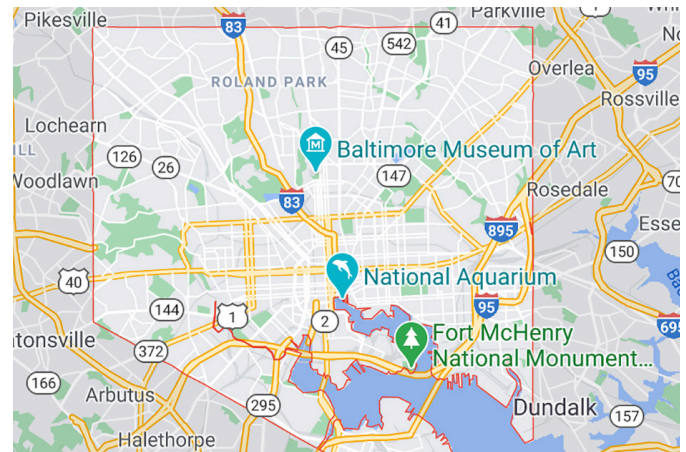
Our experience shows that recycling services across the U.S. are not equitable across all streets, neighborhoods, and housing types -- and essentially excludes participation is a system that benefits the entire U.S. economically and environmentally.

- Only half of the U.S. population has curbside recycling access – there are even lower rates of recycling access in multifamily housing.
- Socioeconomically disadvantaged Black people and people of color often have unequal access to recycling infrastructure and educational materials compared to more affluent neighborhoods.
- Only half of recyclables in homes with recycling service are recycled. In order to capture more recyclables, we must support all residents with education that speaks to their needs – and in their language.

### Case Study: Baltimore

**One example where our work is making a difference is in Baltimore, MD:** We're working with Baltimore on increasing both access and ease of participation in the City's curbside recycling program, making recycling services more equitable and accessible to all.

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.



### Interested in Learning More?

If you would like to know more about the Recycling Inclusion Fund, reach out Jessica Levine at [jlevine@recyclingpartnership.org](mailto:jlevine@recyclingpartnership.org)

A special thanks to Funding Partner 3M for their initial investment toward creating a more equitable system for the future.

Our programs deliver grants, technical assistance, communications and education support, and systems-based solutions for all. We are laser-focused on one objective: making it as easy for ALL people to recycle as it is for them to throw something away.