



THE BALTIMORE TIMES

Vol. 39 No. 40

July 25 - 31, 2025

A Baltimore Times/Times of Baltimore Publication



Baltimore's Pamela Blackmon Shines as Miss Maryland for America Strong 2025

Pamela Blackmon was crowned Miss Maryland for America Strong 2025 during the state competition held March 29, 2025. Already celebrated as Miss Baltimore 2025, Blackmon will represent Maryland at the upcoming Miss for America Strong National Pageant, taking place in Las Vegas on August 25, 2025. Blackmon's platform, Not Just Mental Health™, focuses on mental health, overall wellness, and women's empowerment.

(See article on page 9)

Photo: Paul Belletiere



Grant Expert Gives Grant Success Tips to Help Applicants Gain Strategic Advantage

By Andrea Blackstone

One solution to reducing the stress of grant writing is to better educate yourself about the process of what it takes to win a grant. Sometimes, winning over funders can require support from a grant expert who possesses a successful track record writing grants or guiding clients how to appeal to funders.

Kimberly Coulter—founder of Keys From Kim LLC—turned to Linda M. Peavy, president of LiPav Consulting, for grant writing coaching services. Coulter remarked that Peavy's expertise helped her company to win \$84,000 in October 2024.

"Her trainings are extremely informative, and she provides customized strategies for each participant," said Coulter.

While Coulter believes that this will be the first of many grants she wins, Peavy shares information to inspire readers interested in pursuing grant funding and offers five essential steps that applicants must follow when applying for grants to help them stand out.

1. Customizing your application to the foundation's goals.

"Don't copy-paste the duplicate content that was submitted to other applications. Most every foundation has unique application requirements and areas of interest," said Peavy.

2. Tell a powerful story.

Remember that foundations do not want to read the same cookie-cutter grant narrative repeatedly.

"A grant application is an avenue to tell your story," Peavy explained.

Showcase the human impact of your work by sharing stories, not

just numbers. Demonstrate how your organization is different and what impact is being felt by those you serve.

3. Utilize data to showcase impact.

Back up your need and effect by using statistics. For example, it is not enough to state that you have a homeless ministry as your nonprofit.

"Discuss how many people you have placed in homeless shelters and what has resulted in them having temporary housing," Peavy advised.

4. Clearly and concisely state your mission, need, and funding requirements.

Get to the point. According to Peavy, funders should understand what you do in the first few sentences.

5. Use testimonials or emphasize community partners.

Showcase your impact and tell your story by using testimonials, including video testimonials. Testimonials can be listed on the homepage of your website for great emphasis.

"If the industry is sensitive, consider changing the names of participants," Peavy noted.

She added that one of the most powerful resources to strengthen a grant application is through community partners. They can provide letters of support, and these quotes from clients, partners, or community leaders.

Avoid major mistakes when applying for a grant.

Take time to develop a relationship with the funder. Peavy explains that winning grants should not be viewed as a "money grab" but rather as an opportunity to create a relationship that can last for years to help the relationship prosper.



Linda Peavy gives a keynote presentation for the Community Foundation of Central Florida during its Grants Conference in Gainesville, Florida. Photo: Community Foundation of Central Florida



*Linda M. Peavy, owner of LiPav Consulting
Photo: Alvin Smith*

Do not apply for grant money that does not fit your mission.

"Too often, organizations pursue grants based on the attraction of a dollar amount instead of conducting the required research to determine if the foundation's priorities align with their programs or services," Peavy notes.

Avoid submitting incomplete or rushed grant applications. Remember to include a complete budget that explains how and why you will utilize the grant funds. Peavy cautioned about ignoring formatting instructions that can disqualify the applicant, even if your program is terrific. Lastly, do not submit grant applications late. Pay particular attention to time deadlines.

Note ideal times to apply for grants.

Peavy added that many foundations must give a certain amount of funding by the year's end. The grant expert recommends setting alerts and building a grant calendar to prevent missing deadlines.

"While grants are awarded year-round, a peak time of the year is January through March for organizations that provide funding based on a first-come, first-served calendar year basis. It is always best to start early. The spring season, from March to June, is the peak for private foundations. Many of their decisions are finalized during board meetings. During the fall, September through November, is strong for both public and private grants, especially end-of-year giving," said Peavy.

Find numerous dates for Peavy's free and live workshops, including "HOW TO WRITE AND WIN GRANTS FOR BLACK-LED ORGANIZATIONS": <https://webinars.grantwritingfornonwriters.com/black-led-webinar949851>. Follow Peavy on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/lindapeavy/> and Facebook: www.facebook.com/lipavconsulting. Visit www.lipav.com and www.grantwritingfornonwriters.com to read more about LiPav Consulting, LLC.



The time for savings is NOW

Connect to the Best Prepaid Internet Plan



Get NOW Internet
starting at

\$30/mo
all-in

- ✓ No annual contracts
- ✓ No hidden fees
- ✓ WiFi equipment included



Learn more at xfinity.com/now

Restrictions apply. Not available in all areas. Limited to NOW Internet service, speeds up to 100 Mbps/20 Mbps. Actual speeds vary and are not guaranteed. For factors affecting speed, visit xfinity.com/networkmanagement. Requires self-installation and activation of refurbished gateway. Professional install extra. Payments must be made online only via credit, debit, or prepaid card. Autopay and paperless billing required. Pricing subject to change. Service limited to a single outlet and subject to Xfinity Residential Services Agreement (xfinity.com/policies). Xfinity 30-day money-back guarantee does not apply to service. Warranty/return information for NOW Internet equipment available at xfinity.com/nowhelp. NOW is a trademark of Comcast. © 2025 Comcast. All rights reserved. A trademark of Ziff Davis, LLC. Reprinted with permission. © 2025 Ziff Davis, LLC. All rights reserved. NPA401284-0001

The Anxious Generation: Navigating Mental Health in Minority Youths

By Julia Boms

“It’s safer for me to stay home than for me to go to school.” This statement reflects the harsh reality of some teens in Baltimore’s red-lined neighborhoods. The street outside their homes echoes with gunshots, violence, and sirens. Gradually, anxiety builds quietly, goes unnoticed, and is untreated.

“Your zip code shouldn’t determine how healthy you are and how long you live,” says Dr. Lorrece Edwards, a Public Health Professor at Morgan State University specializing in adolescent health, community violence, and the structural and social drivers of health. She directs the Center for Sexual Health Advancement and Prevention Education (SHAPE) and has extensive experience addressing health disparities affecting youth in underserved communities.

For the most part, discussions about mental health have focused on the adult population. However, a 2021 report laid bare the growing crisis in adolescents’ mental health as nearly 21% of children aged three to seventeen had already been diagnosed with a mental, emotional, or behavioral health condition.

“Most college students face high levels of depression, anxiety, and trauma, resulting from multiple factors such as biological, biophysiological, and environmental factors, as well as how they view themselves and respond to stress. For minority youths, exposure to trauma and a lack of resources further contribute to mental health issues,” says Dr. Sonya Clyburn, a licensed clinical psychologist and Director of Counseling at Morgan State University. With over 15 years of

experience, she specializes in trauma, grief, depression, cultural issues, and mental health among diverse populations.

Childhood mental health, according to the CDC, encompasses “achieving developmental and emotional milestones, learning healthy social skills, and learning how to cope when there are problems.” Therefore, when children struggle emotionally, it could disrupt their friendships and academic achievements.

Seeking Help

Longstanding mental health problems have only been made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic, notwithstanding that receiving care and support remains a concerning issue.

Both professionals agree that lack of access, stigma, and cultural silence are major barriers to mental health care for minority adolescents.

“Many public schools today don’t offer counseling anymore. Without mental health services being available in public schools as they were years ago, some kids won’t get that service out of anywhere else.” Professor Lorrece stressed that school counselors and nurses would occasionally support students beyond academics. They offered avenues for kids to speak about their personal struggles, home life, and emotional challenges, but many schools no longer have these critical employees due to budget cuts.

“Stigma disrupts mental health help-seeking behaviors by those who need it. They may have a feeling of embarrassment or shame about being labeled as ‘crazy’ by others, especially among people of color. Often, they may internalize some of

the negative stereotypes and beliefs about themselves. Low self-esteem, lack of self-efficacy and a sense of hopelessness don’t make it any better,” Dr. Lorrece said.

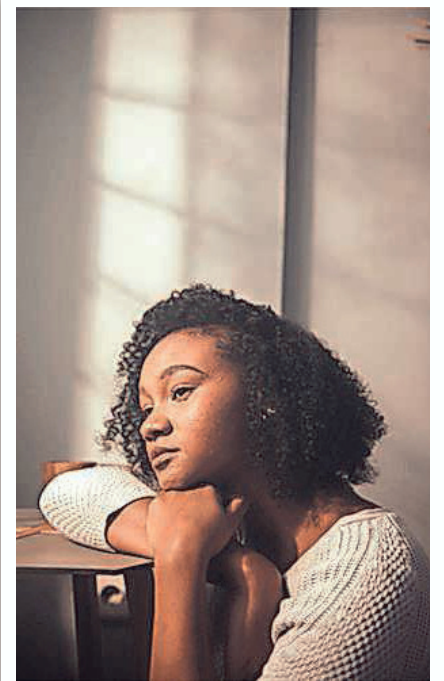
In many minority communities, silence around mental health has been culturally inherited and reinforced. Breaking that silence requires affirming that mental health care is a right and students deserve to understand, talk about, and receive support for their emotional well-being. In Dr. Clyburn’s words, “It’s important to meet students where they are, letting them know it is their right to have positive mental health. It is their right to receive services, to know about how mental health impacts them.”

The Way Forward

Dr. Clyburn states “Mental health services are needed, not only by minority individuals. There are also other individuals struggling with mental health challenges, it doesn’t have a race, color or creed as it happens to everyone, so we all need to be diligent, providing services and programs, starting at an early age so an individual can exceed and succeed in life.”

In addition, “Parents could utilize resources, including participating in mental health first aid training; self-care books; free classes at hospitals; utilizing the library; and state-based support services.” She further urged that if a student or child exhibits impaired feelings or behavior, then support should be sought for them.

While the counseling director focuses on awareness, youth empowerment, and outreach strategies such as social media, Dr. Lorrece calls for broader



National surveys indicate nearly 50% of U.S. adolescents live with a mental health disorder but only 20–50% receive any treatment, and Black teens are significantly less likely to access care than their non-black peers. Photo: Canva

system changes, addressing poverty, education, housing, and community disinvestment. Together, their insights highlight that meaningful progress requires both healing-centered care and structural reform.

Julia Boms is a public health researcher and writer with a focus on maternal, child and adolescent health, and behavioral health. As a health equity advocate, she is passionate about improving health outcomes for underserved populations.

Paris Brown
Publisher

Joy Bramble
Publisher Emeritus

Dena Wane
Editor

Andrea Blackstone
Associate Editor

Eunice Moseley
Entertainment Columnist

Ida C. Neal
Administrative Assistant

Sharon Bunch
Advertising

Ursula V. Battle
Reporter

Stacy Brown
Reporter

Demetrius Dillard
Reporter

Chris Murray
Reporter

Rosa “Rambling Rose” Pryor
Columnist

Karen Clay
Technology Columnist

Tyler Stallings
Junior Reporter

The Baltimore Times (USPS 5840) is a publication of The Baltimore Times/Times of Baltimore, Inc. The Baltimore Times is published every Friday. News and advertising deadline is one week prior to publication. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the written consent of the publisher. Subscriptions by mail \$60 per year. Standard bulk postage paid at Baltimore, MD 21233. POSTMASTER send address changes to: The Baltimore Times, 2530 N. Charles Street, Suite 201, Baltimore, MD 21218

Notice

Any unsolicited manuscripts, editorial cartoons, etc., Sent to The Baltimore Times becomes the property of The Baltimore Times and its Editorial Department, which reserves the right to accept or reject any or all such unsolicited material.

Mailing Address

The Baltimore Times
2530 N. Charles Street, Suite 201
Baltimore, MD 21218
Phone: 410-366-3900
<https://baltimoretimes-online.com/>



Commentary

Baltimore Will Always Love You: Malcolm-Jamal Warner, Husband, Father, Artist, Celebrity Leaves Us at 54

By James Collins
Special to The Baltimore Times

It's hard to meet someone who hasn't been touched in some way by the groundbreaking NBC sitcom “The Cosby Show.” Every Thursday night at 8 p.m., the world stopped to watch a cast of characters that defined the 1980s and, for many, would become household names. Amongst the all-star cast was “Theo,” played by Malcolm-Jamal Warner. Theo was the brother and son who spoke for a large voiceless part of America. He was smart, funny, hip and quirky in a world that pretended all Black boys were either thugs, criminals or athletes. He was the first middle-class Black teen boy character that the country had ever seen on TV.

It was both healing and affirming to see a kid who was brilliant but struggled in school, wasn't an athlete, loved jazz and hip hop, constantly tried to impress girls and always had ambition. Theo was the guy that many of us wanted to be.

Malcolm's portrayal of Theo earned him an Emmy nomination and endeared him to millions of viewers during the show's eight-season run from 1984 to 1992. After “The Cosby Show,” Warner would go on to have a brilliant acting career, starring in numerous hit shows and movies.

What many people don't know is that Malcolm was a brilliant bass player and captivating spoken word artist who released several albums and even won a Grammy with Robert Glasper in 2015. Baltimore first got a glance of his talents in 2004 when Warner made an impromptu appearance at “Organic Soul Tuesdays,” a local open-mic jam



Malcolm-Jamal Warner plays bass with Orchestra Noire in Atlanta (2023)

Photo: Orchestra Noire

session. Malcolm joined the house band, playing bass behind various singers, poets and rappers. After the night was over, the humble celebrity didn't rush off in a limo but rather sat and talked with the artists who attended the event and even exchanged contact information. Interactions like this would continue throughout Warner's life in cities around the country. The evidence of their impact is evident in the hundreds of social media posts that have flooded timelines this week.

Questlove (The Roots) said, “Malcolm expressed ZERO cynicism

or bitterness in his journey and constantly lived in the present, which dictated his future—he was never the guy stuck in a glory days bubble (but always graciously obliged me when I asked a gazillion questions of ‘what was it like back then?’ And that's who he was to many of us.”

So, while millions of Americans lament the guy who defined an era, there is an underbelly of artists and independent art lovers who hurt differently. We were blessed not only to see Theo but also to meet Malcolm.

Malcolm was 54 at his passing and leaves to mourn a wife and a daughter.

Make Mental Wellness a Priority, Family Affair

By Andrea Blackstone

Shareefah Al'Uqdah, PhD, a Washington, DC-based licensed clinical psychologist, stated that maintaining good mental health is essential to overall wellness.

Dr. Al'Uqdah provides mental health services through her business, Your Neighborhood Clinic.

"When you think or feel bad, you tend to overspend; overeat or undereat; have poorer quality relationships; and engage in more harmful behaviors," said Dr. Al'Uqdah.

She noted that job loss concerns can affect a person's mental health in this less stable economy.

"The amount of work stress, particularly, in the DMV area, has increased exponentially. We are having to help clients with career planning and financial stress a lot more."

Family Bonds Matter

Dr. Al'Uqdah's specialty includes providing therapy to clients from diverse backgrounds. The family wellness expert stated that bonding with family members can help individuals to cope with mental health pressures. Dr. Al'Uqdah also mentioned benefits associated with returning to spending family time together, socializing, and enjoying each other's company.

"Minority families can get together for game nights, weekly walks, or monthly potlucks."

She further stated that families who established group chats can share and send a positive weekly mental health post with each other. Family group chat users can start a weekly roll call to share good news.

"I also encourage everybody to learn about one resource that may be helpful for the family. If one

person knows about jobs, another person learns about mental health resources, and another learns about educational resources, the family becomes a springboard to wellness," the psychologist also said.

Why Maintaining Good Mental Health Matters

Use of substances and other coping behaviors can be an indicator of how individuals are feeling or managing stress. According to Dr. Al'Uqdah, drug use and alcohol use are inextricably linked to every mental health disorder.

"Anxious individuals love to smoke weed or drink to relax. Depressed individuals love to drink alcohol," she explained.

Underserved Populations Need Mental Health Support

Destigmatizing therapy, increasing the number of diverse mental health therapists, and making therapy more accessible through telehealth have helped increase therapeutic access. However, some people in communities still need to be reached, including younger individuals. Dr. Al'Uqdah informed that this population frequently does not understand insurance, or they must ask their parents about their health insurance.

"They may have limited financial resources to pay, and thus, they have a harder time entering therapy unless they receive services from a school or university. Despite this, I believe younger individuals want therapy and seek it out."

Dr. Al'Uqdah also believes that everyone with state or federally funded insurance should pursue eight therapy sessions annually. She especially recommends this to adolescents and young adults.

How Poor Mental Health Affects Relationships

When a person's mental health plummets, he or she may become angry, reclusive, impulsive and say or do things he or she would not normally do.

"You may increase your use of alcohol and other drugs. You may cheat and push people away. I have also seen people jump into relationships or try to hang with a bad crowd when their mental health is suffering," Dr. Al'Uqdah stated.

Seek Help and Incorporate Mental Health Resources

Dr. Al'Uqdah advised that insured individuals can call the number on the back of your card if they need help locating in-network mental health providers.

The web can introduce you to national resources. Additionally, follow mental health pages on social media that provide real tips and tricks on how to feel better and think better.

Reading diverse books about mental health topics can help people with less mental care access to gain knowledge about the topic.

"If you want to learn how to eat for a better mood, you can. If you want to learn how to practice breathing for better mental health care, you can.



Dr. Shareefah Al'Uqdah, clinical psychologist owns Your Neighborhood Clinic. The grief and trauma expert; licensed clinical professional counselor; author; income strategist; and family wellness expert discusses mental health topics during National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month.

Photo: Bryanna Goode, Goode Visions photography

Please use the library and engage in bibliotherapy—using books as a form of therapy," Dr. Al'Uqdah suggested.

Do not underestimate the power of spending some time in nature by going for walks, touching dirt or grass, and breathing fresh air every day.

"Your mental health requires you to learn how to love your life and see the good while you are trying to improve the rest," Dr. Al'Uqdah added.

Visit www.yourneighborhoodclinic.org for more information about Your Neighborhood Clinic. Dr. Al'Uqdah offers telehealth to clients nationwide.



Great health starts with great doctors

The Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group is one of the largest physician groups in MD, VA, and DC, and serves nearly 800,000 members. Our Permanente physicians work together seamlessly across specialties to deliver the highest quality care. That's why they continue to be recognized as Top Docs year after year by *Arlington Magazine*, *Baltimore magazine*, *Bethesda magazine*, *Northern Virginia Magazine*, and *Washingtonian magazine*.¹ And it's just one of the reasons why our members live 6 years longer than the national average.²

1,800+ PHYSICIANS

60+ SPECIALTIES

**35+ MEDICAL FACILITIES
ACROSS THE REGION**

6 MORE BIRTHDAYS TO CELEBRATE

kp.org/excellence/mas



¹ The physicians who practice at Kaiser Permanente are recognized as Top Doctors in *Arlington Magazine* (2024), *Baltimore magazine* (2024), *Bethesda magazine* (2023), *Northern Virginia Magazine* (2025), and *Washingtonian magazine* (2024).

² Tori Finch, MS, M Cabell Jonas, PhD, Kevin Rubenstein, Eric Watson, BA, Sundee Basra, MPH, Jose Martinez, BS, & Michael Horberg, MD, MAS, FACP (2021). Life Expectancy Trends Among Integrated Health Care System Enrollees, 2014-2017. *The Permanente Journal*, 25(4), 10-17. thepermanentejournal.org/doi/10.7812/TPP/20.286.

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Mid-Atlantic States, Inc. 4000 Garden City Drive, Hyattsville, MD 20785 2025CE0515 MAS 5/12/25-12/31/26

'When Cancer Knocks at Your Door': Authors Share Cancer Journeys to Empower Others

By Andrea Blackstone

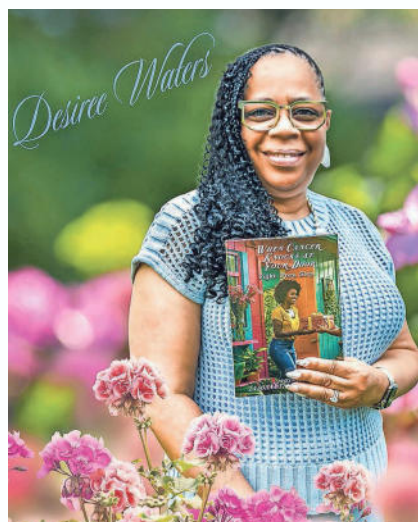
The CDC announced that in 2022, 1,851,238 new cancer cases were reported in the United States (<https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/data/index.html>). Americans such as Desiree Waters can tell you a thing or two about persevering despite facing multiple cancer diagnoses. The Bowie, Maryland resident was first diagnosed with breast cancer in 2017. Waters' second breast cancer diagnosis followed in 2023. Then, metastatic breast cancer spread to her sphenoid bone and skull. The third diagnosis occurred in August 2024.

"I am not cancer-free; I'm still in the thick of it," Waters explained.

She reflected on graduating Northwestern High School well before cancer touched her life. Her academic journey continued at Towson Stafford Business School and Morgan State University. Waters received numerous personal and professional honors. Then, she embraced a new retirement chapter in 2023.

Despite Waters' third cancer diagnosis, she embraced an opportunity to share elements of her cancer walk and become a first-time author. She joined LaDonna Stanley-Thompson; Karen Hargrove; DeWayne Perry; and Kenyette Spencer to provide insight to others through an anthology called "When Cancer Knocks at Your Door." These valiant cancer survivors shared their stories of courage and hope while potentially inspiring others.

Waters initially declined the invitation to participate in the project because she did not regard herself as a writer. Despite facing doubts and obstacles, her inclusion was destined.



Desiree Waters, collaborative author of "When Cancer Knocks at Your Door." Photo: LaTonia Sanders Photography, LLC

"When I eventually agreed, I later had to withdraw my acceptance after receiving a third cancer diagnosis. At that time, my health prevented me from joining conference calls and writing. Nevertheless, LaDonna graciously chose to wait for me, and here I am, an author!" Waters exclaimed joyfully. "LaDonna Stanley-Thompson is the visionary behind this work, answering a divine calling to embark upon this remarkable journey."

Waters prays that "When Cancer Knocks at Your Door's" readers who are facing cancer will discover courage, deepen their faith, embrace a renewed sense of purpose, and allow the book to serve as a companion through their most challenging days.

"I also desire that caregivers and supporters gain a deeper understanding of a cancer patient's journey, empowering them to provide compassionate care and meaningful



LaDonna Stanley-Thompson, visionary of "When Cancer Knocks at Your Door." Photo: Lindsey Aikman Photography

support every step of the way," she added.

Waters stated that a cancer diagnosis, while daunting, does not define a person's worth or dictate the entirety of the individual's life journey.

According to CDC Cancer Survivors (<https://www.cdc.gov/cancer-survivors/hcp/mental-health-care/index.html>), "as many as three out of every four people with cancer experience symptoms of psychological distress or cognitive concerns. These issues can negatively affect cancer patients' overall well-being and health outcomes." Although distress screening is recommended, more emphasis should be placed on cancer patients' mental health care.

"When Cancer Knocks at Your Door" offers the idea that different kinds of support in the cancer community has value. The book aims to inspire readers to find meaning in

the struggle, embrace every moment, and hold onto faith, reminding them that life's challenges can lead to transformative growth and unexpected gifts, like becoming an author, Waters further stated.

Stanley-Thompson, the Washington, DC-based visionary author, wanted to become a published author for over 30 years but did not expect to write about cancer. Cancer was the motivator behind Stanley-Thompson's creation of the project. She received an endometrial adenocarcinoma cancer diagnosis on January 5, 2024.

"I had major surgery on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, to remove the tumor. Two weeks later, I received the pathology report, and they had removed all the cancer. I am still under the oncologist's care for the next three years; however, I am healed of all cancer," Stanley-Thompson explained.

She would like readers to consider using "When Cancer Knocks at Your Door" as a source of hope, guidance, inspiration, and empowerment.

Stanley-Thompson wants someone who is battling cancer to remember her reflection.

"Cancer is not more powerful than God. Getting a diagnosis of cancer or any horrific disease does not have to be the end of your story, but the beginning of a beautiful new story. The gift of newness comes in many forms. Open the wrapped box/gift and make the best of it."

Follow Waters on TikTok <https://www.tiktok.com/@theknockthatchangedme> or Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/desiree.waters.56> Purchase "When Cancer Knocks at Your Door" via <https://www.thevtcollective.com/desireewaters>.

Baltimore's Pamela Blackmon Shines as Miss Maryland for America Strong 2025

Championing Mental Health, Empowering Women, and Representing Maryland on the National Stage

By Madison Lee

In a moment charged with elegance and empowerment, Pamela Blackmon was crowned Miss Maryland for America Strong 2025 during the state competition held March 29, 2025. Already celebrated as Miss Baltimore 2025, Blackmon will represent Maryland at the upcoming Miss for America Strong National Pageant, taking place in Las Vegas on August 25, 2025.

More than a titleholder, Pamela Blackmon is a beacon of purpose-driven leadership and heartfelt community service. Her story reflects not just the glitz of a crown, but the grit of a woman on a mission—advocating for mental wellness, honoring the memory of children lost, and championing the voices of women and single mothers who too often go unheard.

Healing from Within: A Mission for Mental Health

Blackmon's platform, Not Just Mental Health™, has been a transformative force in Baltimore and across Maryland. Focused on mental health, overall wellness, and women's empowerment, the initiative underscores her belief that true healing must encompass mind, body, and spirit. At a time when the African-American community continues to face disparities in mental health access and support, Blackmon is unapologetically raising awareness, reducing stigma, and creating safe spaces for open dialogue.

"Mental health is not just about managing illness—it's about fostering wholeness," says Blackmon. "We carry so much on our shoulders as Black women. It's time we also carry tools, support, and self-compassion."

Her work touches countless lives—from mentoring single mothers navigating stress and burnout to encouraging high school students to explore therapy and mindfulness practices. Through workshops, speaking engagements, and digital outreach, Blackmon's message is clear: healing is a human right.

Strength in Sorrow: Supporting Mothers in Grief

One of the most personal aspects of Blackmon's mission is her initiative Blake's Promise, named in memory of a lost child. This heartfelt program supports women and families grieving the death of a child—a pain few understand, and even fewer talk about.

Blake's Promise offers resources, grief counseling referrals, and emotional check-ins for mothers navigating unbearable loss. It's also a call to action for society to recognize the silent struggles many women face in their darkest moments.

"Grief can isolate you," Blackmon reflects. "But when we build community around our pain, we create the possibility for transformation."

In the African-American community—where grief is often masked by resilience—Blackmon's openness is both radical and healing. Her courage inspires other women to give voice to their sorrow and find strength in their stories.

A Life of Service and Resilience

Beyond the pageant spotlight, Blackmon serves as a Senior Executive at Famni Global Group, is a certified life coach, and actively mentors emerging leaders through Maryland Nonprofits. Her 12 years as a foster parent

speak volumes about her enduring commitment to youth and family development.

Currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in Psychology, Blackmon is determined to combine lived experience with academic training in her quest to become a more impactful advocate and healer.

Whether coaching women through life transitions, advocating for community wellness, or raising awareness on mental health, Pamela Blackmon is walking in purpose, and she's bringing Maryland with her to the national stage.

Representing Maryland with Purpose in Las Vegas

The Miss for America Strong Pageant, held under the historic Mrs. America Organization, celebrates the resilience, leadership, and service of unmarried women across the United States. Contestants are evaluated in categories ranging from interview and evening gown to fitness and stage presence.

Blackmon's presence on that national platform is not just a win for her—it's a win for Maryland. Her participation places Baltimore's values of strength, service, and sisterhood in the national spotlight.

"Representing Maryland is an honor beyond words," Blackmon says. "It's not just about a sash—it's about showing the world the strength, brilliance, and beauty of women in our communities. And as always—Dare to Dream."

You Can Support Pamela's Journey

As she prepares for the national pageant in Las Vegas, Blackmon is seeking the support of her community to help make her representation possible. From pageant attire and travel expenses to marketing and wellness initiatives,



Pamela Blackmon, Miss Maryland for America Strong 2025

Photo: Ryland Bush

the road to the crown is paved with both purpose and cost.

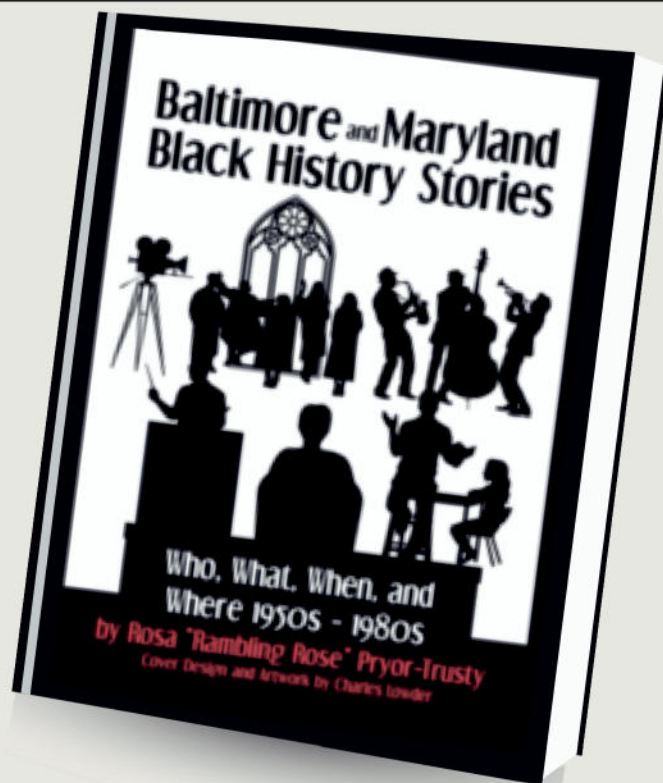
Supporters can contribute through her GoFundMe campaign, which directly supports her participation in the Miss for America Strong competition and the continuation of her advocacy work.

In addition, sponsorship opportunities are available for businesses and organizations that wish to align with a platform rooted in empowerment, healing, and community service.

Pamela Blackmon's story is not only about pageantry—it's about purpose. It's about how one woman can turn her pain into power, and her passion into progress, for an entire community. As she heads to Las Vegas, Maryland stands proudly behind her.

To follow Blackmon's journey, get involved, or offer financial support, connect with her through the following channels:

Instagram: @miss_maryland_foramerica_2025 Facebook: Miss Maryland for America Strong 2025 LinkedIn: Pamela Blackmon Email: team@pampageantdreams.com Phone/Text/WhatsApp: 443-386-6331



**ON SALE
NOW**



The exciting new book by Rosa Pryor-Trusty

Fascinating stories and background tales of the most popular stars, nightclubs, gangsters, politicians and more - from the 1950's - 1980's

Available On:



Public Notice

MCAAHC

Join us on Monday, August 4, 2025, for the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC) August Public Meeting, hosted by Chair Kali-Ahset Amen, Vice Chair Jaelon T. Moaney, and Commissioners Rachelle Adams and Lori Bradford, representing Anne Arundel County.

This is the first public meeting led by the newly elected leadership of the MCAAHC, Chair Kali-Ahset Amen, PhD and Vice Chair Jaelon T. Moaney, who began their roles on July 1, 2025. Be part of the conversation, learn about upcoming initiatives, and gain insight from inspiring voices in the heritage and preservation community!

Date & Time: Monday, August 4, 2025 | 11:00 AM

Location: Banneker-Douglass-Tubman Museum, 84 Franklin Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

Employment

UPS General Services, Co. has the following jobs available in Timonium, MD.
Telecommuting an option:

Sr. Software Development Engineer (req.# 23-137577): Provide input & support for & performs full systems life cycle management activities (e.g., analyses, technical requirements, dsgn, coding, testing, implementation of systems & apps sftwr, production support, etc.). **Up to 60% travel to UPS offices may be required.**

Req's: MS(or equiv.)+2 yrs. exp. Salary: \$151,840 - \$174,616 per annum & standard company benefits.

Sr. Software Development Engineer (req.# 23-145144): Dsgn, dvlp, maintain, test & evaluate Native Mobile apps that provide business capabilities, solutions and/or product suites. **Some travel to UPS offices may be required.** Req's: MS(or equiv.)+2 yrs. exp. Salary: \$124,738 - \$143,034 per annum & standard company benefits.

Submit resume w/ ref. to: (req.#) at:
ATTN: UPS, UPSONLINEJOBPOSTINGS@ups.com.

Legal Notice

CERTIFICATION OF PUBLICATION CITY OF BALTIMORE OFFICE OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS PUBLIC NOTICE

PROJECT NO. 1413— CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEMS

The City of Baltimore, Office of Boards and Commissions, has been requested by the Department of Public Works, Office of Engineering and Construction (OEC), to advertise for services from qualified engineering and construction management firms to provide Construction Management Services for the City's wastewater collection systems.

The City intends to select construction management services from one (1) consultant firm for a period of five (5) years with an option to extend for two (2) years additional term at the City's discretion, for a fee not to exceed \$5,000,000 for each selected firm. The Office of Engineering and Construction reserves the right to have a second interview with the eligible firm.

The firms interested in providing these services must demonstrate and document the following:

1. Experience in the development and implementation of construction management services, including but not limited to constructability support, pre-construction assistance, and construction and post-construction support, which may include change order and claims analysis, progress meetings, budget management, CPM, daily progress reporting, and as-built reviews.
2. Experience with standard construction inspection procedures and requirements for water main and appurtenance installation, rehabilitation, and restoration in accordance with applicable codes and standards. Knowledge of bypass pumping planning, installation, and maintenance during construction in urban residential and business areas.
3. Experience with tracking and reporting procedures for state or

Legal Notice

- federally funded projects.
4. Ability to supplement the City staff to provide full-time on-site construction management staff and field inspection if needed.
5. Experience with Primavera Contract Management version 14 (CM14) project tracking software or Unifier and Primavera P6 scheduling software, version 8.1 or higher
6. . Experience developing effective communication processes and community outreach engagement, including stakeholder engagement, public information, utility notifications, conflict mitigation, and emergency responses.
7. An overall team approach to utilize, manage and coordinate assigned tasks of the Minority/Women Business Enterprises partners and conform to City goals.

DPW encourages all contracting firms that have the experience and capacity to work on this scope to submit their proposals. All firms must demonstrate and document their capacity and resources to deliver the required services on time. Projects must comply with the 2006 edition of "The Specifications for Materials, Highways, Bridges, Utilities and Incidental Structures". City personnel will utilize the City of Baltimore Guidelines for the Performance Evaluation of Design Consultants and Construction Contractors for this contract/project.

This project will be managed by Benjamin Wang. Should you have any questions regarding the scope of the project, please contact Benjamin Wang at (410) 396-4700 or by email at Benjamin.wang@baltimorecity.gov.

All firms listed in the specific proposal for the Project **must** be prequalified by the Office of Boards and Commissions for **each** applicable discipline at time of submittal for this Project. Any construction contractor listed in the specific proposal for the Project to perform work in an existing prequalification category must also be prequalified. *A copy of the prime and sub consultant's current Prequalification Certificate should be included in the bid submittal package.* Information regarding the prequalification

Legal Notice

process can be obtained by calling the Office of Boards and Commissions on 410.396.6883.

Submittal Process

Each Firm responding to this Request for Proposal (RFP) Project # **1413** is required to complete and submit an *original* Standard Federal Form (SF) 255/330 unless otherwise specified in this RFP. Provide **one (1) original** submittal, along with **five (5) additional** copies, to the Office of Boards and Commissions **4 South Frederick Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202** on or prior to the due date by NOON September 26, 2025. Submittals will not be accepted after the due date (NOON) and cannot be emailed.

The Federal Standard Form (SF) 255 *cannot* be supplemented with additional pages any additional information such as graphs, photographs, organization chart, etc. All such information should be incorporated into the appropriate pages. Applications should not be bound; should simply be stapled in the upper left-hand corner. Cover sheets should not be included. Inclusion and/or submittal of additional material may result in the applicant being disqualified from consideration for this project.

Firms interested in submitting a proposal for this Project, shall address a "Letter of Interest" to the Office of Boards and Commissions, 4 South Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland, 21202 or you may email : OBC.consultants@baltimorecity.gov.

Letters of Interest will be utilized to assist small minority and women business enterprises in identifying potential teaming partners and should be submitted within five (5) days of the date of the project's advertisement. The Letter of Interest must provide the name and number of your firms contact person. Failure to submit a "Letter of Interest" will not disqualify a firm submitting a proposal for the project.

Only individual firms (including, for example, individuals, sole proprietorships, corporations, limited liability companies, limited liability partnerships, and general partnerships) or formal Joint Venture (**JV**) may apply. Two firms may not apply jointly unless they have formed a joint venture.

Cost of RFP Response

There will be no payment or compensation provided to firms' who desire to participate

Legal Notice

in any part of the submission. All expenses related to the preparation of a response, including additional requested information, interviews, and any other necessary information, will be the sole responsibility of the firm. The City, its staff, or its representatives will not be responsible for reimbursing any costs or expenses incurred as a result of providing a submission to this RFP.

MBE/WBE Requirements – Mayor's Office (SMBA&D)

It is the policy of the City of Baltimore Mayor's Office of Small and Minority Business Advocacy & Development (SMBA&D) to promote equal business opportunity in the City's contracting process. Pursuant to Article 5, Subtitle 28 of Baltimore City Code (2000 Edition) – Minority and Women's Business Program, Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and Women's Business Enterprise (WBE) participation goals apply to this contract.

The MBE goal is **30%**

The WBE goal is **15%**

Both the proposed Minority and Women's Business Enterprise firms must be named and identified as an MBE or WBE within Item 6 of the Standard Form (SF) 255 in the spaces provided for identifying outside key consultants/associates anticipated for utilization for this project.

Any submittals that do not include the proper MBE/WBE (in some instances DBE) participation will be disapproved for further consideration for this project.

Verifying Certification

Each firm submitting a SF 255 for consideration for a project is responsible for verifying that all MBEs and WBEs to be utilized on the project are certified by the Minority and Women's Business Opportunity Office (MWBOO) prior to submitting the proposal. A directory of certified MBEs and WBEs is available from MWBOO. Since changes to the directory occur daily, firms submitting SF 255s should call MWBOO at (410) 396-4355 to verify certification, expiration dates and services that the MBE or WBE is certified to provide.

Non-Affiliation

A firm submitting a proposal may not use an MBE or WBE to meet a contract goal if:

Legal Notice

1. The firm has a financial interest in the MBE or WBE
 2. The firm has an interest in the ownership or control of the MBE or WBE
 3. The firm is significantly involved in the operation of the MBE or WBE
- (Article 5, Subtitle 28-41).

Insurance Requirements

The consultant selected for the award of this project shall provide professional liability, auto liability, and general liability and workers' compensation insurances as required by the City of Baltimore.

Local Law Hiring

Article 5, Subtitle 27 of the Baltimore City Code, as amended (the "Local Hiring Law") and its rules and regulations apply to contracts and agreements executed by the City on or after the Local Hiring Law's effective date of December 23, 2013 which is applicable to all vendors. The Local Hiring Law applies to every contract for more than \$300,000 made by the City, or on its behalf, with any person. It also applies to every agreement authorizing assistance valued at more than \$5,000,000 to a City-subsidized project. Please visit www.oedworks.com for details on the requirements of the law.

Additional Information

Any firm submitting a SF255 in response to the RFP that fails to comply with the requirements of Article 5, Subtitle 28 of Baltimore City Code when executing a contract is subject to the following penalties: suspension of a contract; withholding of funds; nullification of contract based on material breach; disqualification as a consultant from eligibility to provide services to the City for a period not to exceed 2 years; and payment for damages incurred by the City.

A resume for each person listed as key personnel and/or specialist, including those from MBE and WBE firms, must be shown on the page provided within the application.

Please be advised that for the purpose of reviewing price proposals and invoices, the City of Baltimore defines a principal of a firm as follows:

A principal is any individual owning 5% or more of the outstanding stock of an entity, a partner of a partnership, a 5% or more shareholder of a sub-chapter 'S'

Legal Notice

Corporation, or an individual owner.

Out-of-State Corporations must identify their corporate resident agent within the application.

Firms providing a SF255 in response to the RFP who are not prequalified at the time of the submittal due date will be deemed not qualified and will not be considered for further participation on the project.

Failure to follow directions of this advertisement or the application may cause disqualification of the submittal.

Deena Joyce, Executive Secretary
Chief Office of Boards and Commissions

Legal Notice

CERTIFICATION OF PUBLICATION CITY OF BALTIMORE OFFICE OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL - PROJECT NO.1414 ON-CALL DESIGN PROJECT 1042 ENGINEERING SERVICES

The City of Baltimore Office of Engineering and Construction (OEC) has been authorized to request the Office of Boards and Commissions (OBC) to advertise Project 1414 for the selected services for the City of Baltimore from qualified Engineering firms. It is the expectation of the City's that interested firms providing these services must demonstrate and document the following services for the City of Baltimore: rehabilitation of Sanitary sewers.

ADD SCOPE OF WORK

The work to be performed by the selected firm includes the evaluation, selection and design of the rehabilitation method, preparation of design reports and contract documents including plans and specifications, cost estimates, permit applications, easements, participation in community meetings, post award services including shop drawings review, review and response to RFIs, construction schedule review, construction inspection and consultation during construction, and review and evaluation of post-repair CCTV. Additional assessment of the sewer mains

Legal Notice

may be necessary at the discretion of the City.

The firms interested in providing these services must demonstrate and document:

1. Experience in analyzing CCTV inspection data from various platforms (using industry standards such as NASSCO's PACP, MACP, etc., and in selecting rehabilitation methods based on pipe and field condition. CCTV review personnel must be NASSCO PACP certified.
2. Experience in the design of sanitary sewers. CIPP lining design personnel must be NASSCO ITCP certified.
3. Experience in the preparation of design reports, contract documents including plans and specifications, all permit applications, easement/ROW documents and other related items necessary for the procurement of construction.
4. Experience in geotechnical engineering, subsurface exploration, test pit, test holes and survey services for utility designs.
5. Experience in construction management services that includes inspection during construction, review and response to RFIs, review and tracking of shop drawings, submittals and change orders, review of substitutions and technical consultations.
6. Knowledge of Baltimore City Wastewater Collection System.
7. Experience in various aspects of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) such as reading and generating maps; gathering, understanding, review and verification of GIS data; and manipulating GIS data.
8. Experience in developing and managing an overall team with Minority/Women Business Enterprises utilization and demonstrate manpower availability to complete the project.

The consultant will have the following responsibilities:

1. Review and analyze CCTV inspection data in accordance with NASSCO standards to determine sewer and manhole rehabilitation methods based on sewer, manhole and field conditions.
2. Perform a site assessment/review of existing field conditions.
3. Provide field surveying and geotechnical testing services as required.
4. Prepare a preliminary design report.
5. Prepare all required engineering design plans in accordance with DPW requirements, including sewer alignment plans, profiles, standard details, erosion and sediment control plans, traffic control plans, forest conservation plans, wetland delineation plans, planting plans, etc. and submit to the city for 35%

Legal Notice

70% and 100% design review. Prepare written responses to all review comments.

6 Perform constructability reviews of all design plans.

7. Prepare contract specifications in accordance with the Baltimore City Standard Specification "Green Book"

8. Prepare an engineer's cost estimate during each design phase.

9. Identify all ROW requirements, and any off-road access paths that may be required for construction equipment.

10. Identify all required permits, prepare permit applications and coordinate with the various agencies to obtain permits, with the assistance of DPW. Incorporate all agency permit review comments into the final design plans.

11. Assist with the contractor selection process.

12. Attend the pre-construction meeting and provide written responses to all contractor questions.

13. Provide post award design services (PAS), including review of contractor submittals, provide responses to requests for information (RFI), change orders, review and track shop drawings and attend meetings, either on-site or in the office to resolve issues arising during construction.

14. Update design plans with as-built information at the conclusion of construction.

The City intends to select the services of three (3) firms for a period of Five (5) years, with an option to extend for one (1) year additional term at City's discretion, for a fee not to exceed \$5,000,000.00 for each selected firm. The Office of Engineering and Construction reserves the right to have a second interview with eligible consulting firms.

DPW encourages all contracting firms that have the experience and capacity to work on this scope to submit their proposals. All firms must demonstrate and document their capacity and resources to deliver the required services on time. Projects must comply with the 2006 edition of "The Specifications for Materials, Highways, Bridges, Utilities and Incidental Structures". City personnel will utilize the City of Baltimore Guidelines for the Performance Evaluation of Design Consultants and Construction Contractors for this contract/project.

Should you have any questions regarding the scope of the project, please contact Dr. Franco Egbe at 410-642-0069 or by email at franco.egbe@baltimorecity.gov

Legal Notice

All firms listed in the specific proposal for the Project **must** be prequalified by the Office of Boards and Commissions for **each** applicable discipline at time of submittal for this Project. Any construction contractor listed in the specific proposal for the Project to perform work in an existing prequalification category must also be prequalified. *A copy of the prime and sub consultant's current Prequalification Certificate should be included in the bid submittal package.* Information regarding the prequalification process can be obtained by calling the Office of Boards and Commissions on 410.396.6883.

Submittal Process

Each Firm responding to this Request for Proposal (RFP) Project #1414 is required to complete and submit **an original** Standard Federal Form (SF) 255 unless otherwise specified in this RFP. Provide one **(1) original** submittal, along with **five (5) additional** copies to the Office of Boards and Commissions at **4 South Frederick Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202** on or prior to the due date by **NOON Friday September 26, 2025**. Submittals **will not be accepted after the due date (NOON) and cannot be emailed**.

The Federal Standard Form (SF) 255 **cannot** be supplemented with additional pages, or additional information such as graphs, photographs, organization chart, etc. All such information should be incorporated into the appropriate pages. Applications should not be bound; simply stapled in the upper left-hand corner. Cover sheets should not be included. Inclusion and/or submittal of additional material may result in the applicant being disqualified from consideration for this project.

Firms interested in submitting a proposal for this Project, shall address a "Letter of Interest" to the Office of Boards and Commissions, or you may email:

OBC.consultants@baltimorecity.gov.

Letters of Interest will be utilized to assist small minority and women business enterprises in identifying potential teaming partners and should be submitted within five (5) days of the date of the project's advertisement. The Letter of Interest must provide the name and number of your firms contact person. Failure to submit a "Letter of Interest" will not disqualify a firm submitting a proposal for the project.

Only individual firms (including, for example, individuals, sole proprietorships, corporations, limited liability companies, limited liability partnerships, and general partner-

Legal Notice

ships) or formal Joint Venture (JV) may apply. Two firms may not apply jointly unless they have formed a joint venture.

COSTS OF RFP RESPONSE

There will be no payment or compensation provided to firms' who desire to participate in any part of the submission. All expenses related to the preparation of a response, including additional requested information, interviews, and any other necessary information, will be the sole responsibility of the firm. The City, its staff, or its representatives will not be responsible for reimbursing any costs or expenses incurred as a result of providing a submission to this RFP.

MBE/WBE Requirements – Mayor's Office (SMBA&D)

It is the policy of the City of Baltimore Mayor's Office of Small and Minority Business Advocacy & Development (SMBA&D) to promote equal business opportunity in the City's contracting process. Pursuant to Article 5, Subtitle 28 of Baltimore City Code (2000 Edition) – Minority and Women's Business Program, Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and Women's Business Enterprise (WBE) participation goals apply to this contract.

The MBE goal is **30%**
The WBE goal is **15%**

Both the proposed Minority and Women's Business Enterprise firms must be named and identified as an MBE or WBE within Item 6 of the Standard Form (SF) 255 in the spaces provided for identifying outside key consultants/associates anticipated for utilization for this project.

Any submittals that do not include the proper MBE/WBE (in some instances DBE) participation will be disapproved for further consideration for this project.

Verifying Certification

Each firm submitting a SF 255 for consideration for a project is responsible for verifying that all MBEs and WBEs to be utilized on the project are certified by the SMBA&D prior to submitting the proposal. A directory of certified MBEs and WBEs is available from SMBA&D. Since changes to the directory occur daily, firms submitting SF 255s should call SMBA&D at (410) 396-3818 to verify certification, expiration dates and services that the MBE or WBE is certified to provide.

Legal Notice

Non-Affiliation

A firm submitting a proposal may not use an MBE or WBE to meet a contract goal if:

*The firm has a financial interest in the MBE or WBE

*The firm has an interest in the ownership or control of the MBE or WBE

*The firm is significantly involved in the operation of the MBE or WBE (Article 5, Subtitle 28-41).

Insurance Requirements

The consultant selected for the award of this project shall provide professional liability, auto liability, and general liability and workers' compensation insurances as required by the City of Baltimore.

Local Hiring Law

Article 5, Subtitle 27 of the Baltimore City Code, as amended (the "Local Hiring Law") and its rules and regulations apply to contracts and agreements executed by the City on or after the Local Hiring Law's effective date of December 23, 2013, which is applicable to all vendors. The Local Hiring Law applies to every contract for more than \$300,000 made by the City, or on its behalf, with any person. It also applies to every agreement authorizing assistance valued at more than \$5,000,000 to a City-subsidized project. Please visit www.oedworks.com for details on the requirements of the law.

Additional Information

Any firm submitting a SF255 in response to the RFP that fails to comply with the requirements of Article 5, Subtitle 28 of Baltimore City Code when executing a contract is subject to the following penalties: suspension of a contract; withholding of funds; nullification of contract based on material breach; disqualification as a consultant from eligibility to provide services to the City for a period not to exceed 2 years; and payment for damages incurred by the City.

A resume for each person listed as key personnel and/or specialist, including those from MBE and WBE must be shown on the page provided within the application.

Please be advised that for the purpose of reviewing price proposals and invoices, the City of Baltimore defines a principal of a firm as follows:

A principal is any individual owning 5% or more of the outstanding stock of an entity; a

Legal Notice

partner of a partnership, a 5% or more shareholder of a sub-chapter 'S' Corporation, or an individual owner.

Out-of-State Corporations must identify their corporate resident agent within the application.

Firms providing a SF255 in response to this RFP who do not follow the guidelines within this RFP including being prequalified, meeting SMBA&D goals at the time of the submittal due date will be deemed nonresponsive.

Failure to follow any of the guidelines of this advertisement will cause disqualification of the submittal and will disqualify the entire team for further participation in the project.

Deena Joyce, Executive Secretary
Chief Office of Boards and Commissions

Legal Notice

CERTIFICATION OF PUBLICATION CITY OF BALTIMORE OFFICE OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL - PROJECT NO. 1416 Construction Management Assistance for Sanitary Contract 1037 Effluent Sand Filter Rehabilitation at the Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant

The Baltimore City Office of Boards and Commissions has been requested by the Department of Public Works, Office of Engineering and Construction, to certify the qualifications of engineering firms to provide Construction Management Assistance for the 1037 Effluent Sand Filter Rehabilitation. One contract will be awarded for a period of 2.5 years.

Scope of Work

The Project and Construction Management Assistance services to be provided include, but are not limited to, assisting the City Office of Engineering and Construction with construction monitoring and inspection, preparation of daily reports, maintenance of project records and documentation, review of contractor's application for payment, attendance at progress meetings, preparation of record drawings, review of contract

Legal Notice

claims and support documents, cost estimating, scheduling, time impact analysis, quality control, project engineering, constructability reviews, submittal reviews and responses, RFI reviews and responses, and other documents.

*Experience in Facilities Rehabilitation and Construction at Wastewater Treatment Plants.

*Experience in development and implementation of a Construction Project Management program for Wastewater Treatment Plants.

*Familiarity with standard construction inspection procedures and requirements for Civil, Structural, Mechanical, and Electrical disciplines, SCADA system, Effluent Filters installation and implementation.

*Familiarity with the most current applicable building codes, Electrical NEC, and Wastewater Treatment Plant standards.

*Experience in providing and managing field inspection staff with Quality Control and Quality Assurance experience and with change orders and claims analysis.

*Experience with Critical Path Method construction scheduling, and Time Impact Analysis, using Primavera version 6 scheduling software.

*Experience with Primavera Contract Management version 14 and Unifier project tracking software.

*Overall team approach to utilize, coordinate, and manage, assigned tasks of the *Minority/Women Business Enterprises* partners, and conform to City goals.

DPW encourages all contracting firms that have the experience and capacity to work on this scope to submit their proposals. All firms must demonstrate and document their capacity and resources to deliver the required services on time. Project fees have been estimated at \$6,000,000.00 for a period of 2.5 years.

Should you have any questions regarding the scope of the project, please contact Mr. Maung Htay at 443-984-3512 or by email at maung.htay@baltimorecity.gov

Prequalification Requirement

All firms listed in the specific proposal for the Project **must** be prequalified by the Office of Boards and Commissions for each applicable discipline at the time of submittal for this Project. A copy of the prime and subconsultant's current Prequalification Certificate should be included in the bid submittal package. Information regarding

Legal Notice

the prequalification process can be obtained by calling the Office of Boards and Commissions on 410-396-6883.

Projects must comply with the 2006 edition of "The Specifications for Materials, Highways, Bridges, Utilities and Incidental Structures". City personnel will utilize the City of Baltimore Guidelines for the Performance Evaluation of Design Consultants and Construction Contractors for this contract/project.

Submittal Process

Each Firm responding to this Request for Proposal (RFP) Project #1405 is required to complete and submit **an original** Standard Federal Form (SF) 255 / 330 unless otherwise specified in this RFP. Provide one **(1) original** submittal, along with **five (5) additional** copies to the Office of Boards and Commissions at **4 South Frederick Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202** on or prior to the due date by **NOON Friday September 26, 2025**. Submittals will not be accepted after the due date (NOON) and cannot be emailed.

The Federal Standard Form (SF) 255 **cannot** be supplemented with additional pages, or additional information such as graphs, photographs, organization chart, etc. All such information should be incorporated into the appropriate pages. Applications should not be bound; simply stapled in the upper left-hand corner. Cover sheets should not be included. Inclusion and/or submittal of additional material may result in the applicant being disqualified from consideration for this project.

Firms interested in submitting a proposal for this Project, shall address a "Letter of Interest" to the Office of Boards and Commissions, or you may email:

OBC.consultants@baltimorecity.gov. Letters of Interest will be utilized to assist small minority and women business enterprises in identifying potential teaming partners and should be submitted within five (5) days of the date of the project's advertisement. The Letter of Interest must provide the name and number of your firms contact person. Failure to submit a "Letter of Interest" will not disqualify a firm submitting a proposal for the project.

Only individual firms (including, for example, individuals, sole proprietorships, corporations, limited liability companies, limited liability partnerships, and general partnerships) or formal

Legal Notice

Joint Venture (JV) may apply. Two firms may not apply jointly unless they have formed a joint venture.

COSTS OF RFP RESPONSE

There will be no payment or compensation provided to firms who desire to participate in any part of the submission. All expenses related to the preparation of a response, including additional requested information, interviews, and any other necessary information, will be the sole responsibility of the firm. The City, its staff, or its representatives will not be responsible for reimbursing any costs or expenses incurred as a result of providing a submission to this RFP.

MBE/WBE Requirements – Mayor's Office (SMBA&D)

It is the policy of the City of Baltimore Mayor's Office of Small and Minority Business Advocacy & Development (SMBA&D) to promote equal business opportunity in the City's contracting process. Pursuant to Article 5, Subtitle 28 of Baltimore City Code (2000 Edition) – Minority and Women's Business Program, Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and Women's Business Enterprise (WBE) participation goals apply to this contract.

The MBE goal is **_30_%**

The WBE goal is **_15_%**

Both the proposed Minority and Women's Business Enterprise firms must be named and identified as an MBE or WBE within Item 6 of the Standard Form (SF) 255 in the spaces provided for identifying outside key consultants/associates anticipated for utilization for this project.

Any submittals that do not include the proper MBE/WBE (in some instances DBE) participation will be disapproved for further consideration for this project.

Verifying Certification

Each firm submitting a SF 255 for consideration for a project is responsible for verifying that all MBEs and WBEs to be utilized on the project are certified by the SMBA&D prior to submitting the proposal. A directory of certified MBEs and WBEs is available from SMBA&D. Since changes to the directory occur daily, firms submitting SF 255s should call SMBA&D at (410) 396-3818 to verify certification, expiration dates and services that the MBE or WBE is certified to provide.

Legal Notice

Non-Affiliation

A firm submitting a proposal may not use an MBE or WBE to meet a contract goal if: The firm has a financial interest in the MBE or WBE

The firm has an interest in the ownership or control of the MBE or WBE

The firm is significantly involved in the operation of the MBE or WBE (Article 5, Subtitle 28-41).

Insurance Requirements

The consultant selected for the award of this project shall provide professional liability, auto liability, and general liability and workers' compensation insurances as required by the City of Baltimore.

Local Hiring Law

Article 5, Subtitle 27 of the Baltimore City Code, as amended (the "Local Hiring Law") and its rules and regulations apply to contracts and agreements executed by the City on or after the Local Hiring Law's effective date of December 23, 2013, which is applicable to all vendors. The Local Hiring Law applies to every contract for more than \$300,000 made by the City, or on its behalf, with any person. It also applies to every agreement authorizing assistance valued at more than \$5,000,000 to a City-subsidized project. Please visit www.oedworks.com for details on the requirements of the law.

Additional Information

Any firm submitting a SF255 in response to the RFP that fails to comply with the requirements of Article 5, Subtitle 28 of Baltimore City Code when executing a contract is subject to the following penalties: suspension of a contract; withholding of funds; nullification of contract based on material breach; disqualification as a consultant from eligibility to provide services to the City for a period not to exceed 2 years; and payment for damages incurred by the City.

A resume for each person listed as key personnel and/or specialist, including those from MBE and WBE must be shown on the page provided within the application.

Please be advised that for the purpose of reviewing price proposals and invoices, the City of Baltimore defines a principal of a firm as follows:

A principal is any individual owning 5% or more of the outstanding stock of an entity, a partner of a partnership, a 5% or more

Legal Notice

shareholder of a sub-chapter "S" Corporation, or an individual owner.

Out-of-State Corporations must identify their corporate resident agent within the application.

Firms providing a SF255 in response to an RFP who are not prequalified at the time of the submittal due date will be deemed not qualified or considered for further participation in the project.

Failure to follow directions of this advertisement or the application will cause disqualification of the submittal.

Deena Joyce, Executive Secretary
Chief, Office of Boards and Commissions

Legal Notice

CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OFFICE OF ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposals, in duplicate addressed to the Board of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and marked for **WATER CONTRACT NO. 1451-Urgent Need Water Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Improvements Phase II-FY25** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M on **August 20, 2025**. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates and can be watched live on CharmTV's cable channel 25/1085HD; charmtvbaltimore.com/watch-live or listen in at (443) 984-1696 (ACCESS CODE: 0842939) from City Hall at Noon. The Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, at Contract Administration 4 South Frederick Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202 on the 3rd floor (410) 396-4041 as of **July 18, 2025** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **100.00**. **Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.** All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact OBC at 4 S Frederick St., 4th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture ("JV"), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall**

Legal Notice

be submitted with the bid for verification purposes. The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is **B02551 – Water Mains**. Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$10,000,000.01** to **\$15,000,000.00**.

A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted via Microsoft Team Meeting. Vendor can call 1 667-228-6519 Phone Conference ID: 22433395# on July 25, 2025, at 10:00 AM. Vendor can also join Microsoft Teams. Meeting ID: 290 545 302 425 0, Passcode: Vt9er9Ue

To purchase a bid book, please make an electronic request at:

<https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/v/dpw-construction-projects-notice-letting-and-dpwbidopportunities@baltimorecity.gov>. For further inquiries about purchasing bid documents, please contact the assigned Contract Administrator Amber Coles-Johnson **Amber.Coles-Johnson@baltimorecity.gov**

Principal items of work for this contract include, but are not limited to:

Urgent need water main repairs and replacement as necessary, including, but not limited to, replacement/installation of various size new ductile iron pipe, valves, fittings, and appurtenances replacement/installation of fire hydrants, small (residential) meter settings and meter vaults, renew and replacement of existing water services, sidewalk restoration, curb and gutter, roadway paving, sedimentation and erosion control measures and maintenance of traffic, as required.

The MBE goal is **10%**
The WBE goal is **4%**

APPROVED:
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:
Khalil Zaied
Director
Deptment of Public Works

Legal Notice

CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OFFICE OF ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposals, in duplicate addressed to the Board of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and marked for **WATER CONTRACT NO. 1285R-Caroline Street and Vicinity Water Main Replacements** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M on **August 20, 2025**. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates and can be watched live on CharmTV's cable channel 25 / 1085 HD ; ; charmtvbaltimore.com/watch-live or listen in at (443) 984-1696 (ACCESS CODE: 0842939) from City Hall at Noon. The Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, at Contract Administration 4 South Frederick Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202 on the 3rd floor (410) 396-4041 as of **July 18, 2025** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **100.00**. **Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.** All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact OBC at 4 S Frederick St., 4th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture ("JV"), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is **B02551 – Water Mains**. Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$20,000,000.01** to **\$30,000,000.00**.

A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted via Microsoft Team Meeting. Vendor can call 1 667-228-6519 Phone Conference ID: 743 649 21# on July 29, 2025, at 1:00 PM. Contractor questions shall be submitted via email to Rupak Karki at Rupak.Karki@baltimorecity.gov by August 8, 2025, before 4:30 PM. Question submitted after the deadline may not be responded to and Contractors will be required to submit their bids based on the available information.

To purchase a bid book, please make an electronic request at:

[https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/v/dpw-construction-projects-notice-](https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/v/dpw-construction-projects-notice-letting-and-dpwbidopportunities@baltimorecity.gov)

Legal Notice

letting and dpwbidopportunities@baltimorecity.gov. For further inquiries about purchasing bid documents, please contact the assigned Contract Administrator Latonia Walston at **lwalston@baltimorecity.gov**.

Principal items of work for this contract include, but are not limited to:

Abandonment and/or removal of existing water mains and installation of various sized new ductile iron pipes, valves, fittings and appurtenances, pipe restraints, replacement/installation of fire hydrants, small (residential) meter settings and meter vaults, renew and replacement of existing water services, temporary bypass piping, erosion and sediment control measures, maintenance of traffic measures, sidewalk restoration, curb and gutter, and roadway paving, as required.

This project is a recipient of the Maryland Water Quality & Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and U.S. EPA Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Programs.

The MBE goal is **22%**
The WBE goal is **16%**

APPROVED:
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:
Khalil Zaied
Director
Deptment of Public Works

To place
Legal Notices
email: legals@btimes.com
dwane@btimes.com



WHERE



THE



MONEY



GOES.

Thanks to the support of our players, the Maryland Lottery contributed \$699.6 million to Maryland's schools, public health and safety initiatives and other state programs in Fiscal Year 2024. We also paid more than \$1.71 billion in prizes to players. Not bad. We'd like to think we generated a few million smiles as well. When you play, everybody wins.

Learn how to play within your limits at mdlottery.com/playresponsibly. For help, call 1-800-GAMBLER. Must be 18 years or older to play.

