

Partnering for Capacity Building

Grant Type: **Dollar and nondollar support**

Dollar Amount: **\$25,000**

Foundation Name: **Richard E. and Nancy P. Marriott Foundation**

What was your objective with the grant or initiative?

Our objective with this grant was to help a nonprofit partner with few staff and a small budget, Inner City Inner Child (ICIC), to build its organizational capacity and identify how to measure and increase its high-impact work to improve the quality of early childhood education in Washington, DC. To accomplish this, we funded a six-month capacity building partnership that connected ICIC with another nonprofit, Fair Chance, a DC-based provider of capacity building services.

What were the results of this grant or initiative?

Through an engagement of eight hours per week for six months, a Fair Chance capacity building specialist, Reginald Grant, worked with ICIC's staff to strengthen organizational performance and practices in the following areas: program evaluation, fundraising, and leadership development. Proven practices of high-performing nonprofit organizations were implemented, including the creation of the organization's first logic model that identified newly defined goals and indicators, an evaluation plan, new program assessment rubrics, a database to store and analyze program data, and a development plan to strengthen individual and corporate cultivation.

Why would you say this grant or initiative had outsized impact?

For a small nonprofit, the organization was able to take the time to focus internally on building its leadership and management systems, and strengthen its sustainability, impact, and success. This organization works with low-income children ages birth to 5 years, underserved families, early childhood educators, and child development centers in the most economically disadvantaged neighborhoods in our nation's capital; its efforts ultimately help improve the quality of early childhood education.

*"Though this six-month partnership was meant to only cover evaluation and financial areas, leadership and board development also felt the effects of Fair Chance. As a result of our work together, I am a stronger, more focused leader. My board is reinvigorated and possesses a new sense of purpose around ICIC's mission."
- Ingrid Zimmer, ICIC Executive Director*



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