

## A Brief History & Bright Future for Park Heights

Park Heights, a historic neighborhood in Northwest Baltimore that has been home to many vibrant communities over the decades, tells a story shared by many American cities—rich in culture, shaped by waves of migration, and marked by major social and economic changes. In the late 19th century, annexation and the expansion of the streetcar system turned Park Heights into a lively “streetcar suburb” with walkable streets and a strong local business scene. Landmarks like the Pimlico Racecourse, now home to the Preakness Stakes—originally opened in 1870 as the Pimlico Fairgrounds—helped drive economic growth and national attention, attracting hotels, restaurants, and entertainment venues. Today, the Park Heights community is experiencing a powerful resurgence through the initiatives implemented by Park Heights Renaissance.

## COLLABORATION OVER COMPETITION

Established in 2007, as the first of eleven recommendations in the Park Heights Master Plan, **Park Heights Renaissance (PHR)** is a community development corporation that brings residents and community partners together around a shared vision for a stronger, more vibrant Park Heights. By coordinating efforts across six key areas — community leadership, education, community wellness & safety, real estate, workforce, and business development — PHR helps align resources, strategies, and leadership to achieve measurable outcomes. This model ensures that residents, businesses, organizations, and legislators are working collaboratively toward a thriving, equitable community where everyone has the opportunity to grow and succeed. Through this approach, PHR strengthens both the people and places that define Park Heights.

## INDICATORS OF COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Despite its strengths, Park Heights faces significant challenges:

- Median household income: \$30,120 (\$20,000 below the citywide average)
- Unemployment rate: 18.1%
- Population: Seniors (65+) make up 25% of the population, while children under 18 account for 23%
- Four of the census tracts within the Park Heights Master Plan footprint have child poverty rates exceeding 40%

## GOC ENOUGH INITIATIVE

- **Grant Phase:** Implementation (Track 3)
- **Region:** Baltimore City
- **Child Population (under 18):** 7,397
- **Childhood Poverty Rate:** 33%

## COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS



**12 Neighborhoods**  
**22,000 Residents**



**300+ Businesses**



**100+ Faith Institutions**  
**& Community Assets**



**4 Recreational Centers**  
**3 Major Health Facilities**



**4 Public Schools**

## FEATURED ASSETS



**Pimlico Racetrack**  
*Home of the Preakness*



**Sinai Hospital**



**Maryland MVA**



**Enoch Pratt Free Library**  
*Coming Winter 2027*



# OUR APPROACH

*to the work*

- CRADLE TO CAREER EDUCATION
- HEALTHY FAMILIES
- ECONOMICALLY SECURE FAMILIES
- SAFE AND THRIVING COMMUNITIES



"I'm almost overwhelmed with emotion for you even recognizing that, and standing up and saying that we, in the community, know best," said Jiggetts to the governor during the announcement. "The residents live there. They know what's best for their community."

Yolanda Jiggetts, CEO  
Park Heights Renaissance



## Community Wellness & Safety Collaborative



Connecting families to wellness resources, healing circles, and open green spaces to build community trust and promote public safety.



## Workforce Development Coalition



Helping residents access job training and employment, while supporting workforce partners that offer career readiness, certifications, and long-term career pathways.



## Education Out-of-School Time Network



Supporting students and families through quality after-school and summer activities, that enhance academic success, parent engagement, and student wellness.



## Developers Network



Coordinating strategic development that leverages funding, prioritizes community benefit, and supports long-term growth.



## Community Leadership Council



Empowering residents to lead, advocate, and shape neighborhood decisions, including engaging in discussions around the \$400M to transform Pimlico Race Course.



## Business & Main Street Program



Strengthening local businesses and revitalizing key corridors to support economic opportunity and vibrant commercial spaces.



## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Increase Kindergarten Readiness Assessment rates
- Increase number of high school students completing apprenticeship
- Increase occupancy and business activity along Park Heights Main Street
- Increase number of owner occupied housing units
- Reduce number of properties classified as vacant
- Increase safety enhancements and beautification to have an impact on violent crime rate

### About Maryland's ENOUGH Initiative:

Launched and administered by the Governor's Office for Children, Maryland's ENOUGH Initiative aims to reduce the number of children living in poverty through community-led, government-supported solutions. The initiative addresses the root causes of poverty in specific neighborhoods that have been historically left behind and impacted by barriers to economic mobility. Driven by data, residents' lived experiences and cross-sector collaboration, this grant initiative supports community-led organizations across every region of Maryland to improve access to quality healthcare, good schools, good jobs and safe neighborhoods so that more children and families can prosper. [www.goc.maryland.gov](http://www.goc.maryland.gov)

