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ABSTRACT NARRATIVE

The **Barbara Jordan Academy for Girls (BJAG)** is a 501 (c) 3, non-profit organization established in 2010. **BJAG** is dedicated to the belief that all students have dignity, value and worth and will develop girls who are confident, civic, social, community and national leaders. **BJAG** will be established to address the educational need for girls (K-8) in the Baltimore City area zip code 21217.

BJAG began in early 2010 with a small but highly focused group of individuals concerned with the deleterious position, plight and direction of children within Baltimore City and the level of education these children were receiving. The group composed of educators, social workers, and business people and concerned others, queried about which measures could accurately and effectively be taken to end, or at the very least, quell the rapid social and educational decline of an entire generation. Of greatest concern were school aged girls living in Baltimore City who, as exposed in recent reports and public opinion, were becoming a rapidly growing segment of the judicial, truant and dropout populations. In addition, it highlighted the scores for girls on statewide standardized tests were beginning to show declines in areas where they once excelled.

Mission: **BJAG** believes that all students have dignity, value, and worth and will develop girls who are confident, civic, social, community and national leaders. Using a social justice and public policy integrated, project based curriculum, **BJAG** will produce students who can effectively communicate, investigate, and evaluate, developing self-respecting, highly intelligent, understanding, and contributing members of society to a changing world.

Vision: Children thrive when they learn in a nurturing environment. **BJAG** will ensure a safe, supportive and positive school culture for increased student achievement and social / character development.

Goals/Outcomes: **BJAG** has high expectations for the students and projects within four years 80% of **BJAG**'s students will demonstrate a proficiency in reading and math, preparing a well-developed path to the rigors of high school and college. Over time, **BJAG** will aim support and learn from other district-led school improvement efforts throughout the city and state.

Receiving this funding will assist us in implementing the developed strategy to reflect the mission, vision and values of the **BJAG** and assist to articulate a plan that would form the blueprint to establish and open the **BJAG** Charter School.

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