

Big Bets for America

A national conversation, rooted in place — Oklahoma City, Baltimore, and Cleveland — hosted by The Rockefeller Foundation.

Overview

Big Bets for America (BB4A) is The Rockefeller Foundation's national convening platform — bringing leaders from government, business, philanthropy, and community organizations together to advance economic opportunity. Each convening reflects its host city's realities while turning local progress into national momentum.

Every convening has drawn its city's mayor and its state's governor — a signal of the political capital and public-sector investment this platform commands.

Oklahoma City — Mayor David Holt · Gov. Kevin Stitt

Baltimore — Mayor Brandon Scott · Gov. Wes Moore

Cleveland — Mayor Justin Bibb · Gov. Mike DeWine

Across all three convenings, **587 organizations** have engaged — 32 of them at more than one, proof of a growing, connected network, not three standalone events.

AT A GLANCE

Organizer

The Rockefeller Foundation

Locations

Oklahoma City, Baltimore, Cleveland

Audience

Government, philanthropy, business, nonprofit, academic, and civic leaders

Focus

Economic opportunity, workforce, health, entrepreneurship, community revitalization

Partners

Fifteen partners across all three convenings, including Johns Hopkins University, Cleveland Foundation, Heartland Forward, Blackrock Foundation, and more

Goals

- 01 Elevate bold solutions to economic and social challenges
- 02 Convene leaders who drive action and investment
- 03 Strengthen cross-sector partnerships
- 04 Turn ideas into commitments and implementation
- 05 Connect local innovation to capital and implementation

The Journey

C-SUITE ENGAGEMENT — CONSISTENT ACROSS ALL THREE CITIES

1 OKLAHOMA CITY · NOV 2025

Launched in the American Heartland — innovation, entrepreneurship, manufacturing, community-led renewal.

39% C-suite or equivalent

Partners: Heartland Forward

2 BALTIMORE · APR 2026

Economic mobility, workforce development, neighborhood revitalization, capital alignment.

41% C-suite or equivalent

Partners: Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore Development Corp., Greater Baltimore Committee

3 CLEVELAND · JUN 2026

Workforce, advanced manufacturing, healthcare innovation, place-based growth.

42% C-suite or equivalent

Partners: Cleveland Foundation, Destination Cleveland, KeyBank

C-suite or equivalent: Chief Officer titles, President/CEO, Executive Director, Founder/Owner, and Governor/Mayoral participants.

1,200+

attendees across all three convenings

587

organizations engaged — 32 at more than one convening

\$450M+

in commitments, incl. the \$105M RF Good Jobs for America strategy

100+

media outlets amplified the convening nationally

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KEY TAKEAWAY

Place-based leadership and cross-sector partnership turn local momentum into **mobilized capital** — a pattern that has catalyzed more than \$450 million across three cities in seven months.

Why it matters:

BB4A shows how locally rooted leadership connects community innovation to the partners, resources, and networks that move ambitious ideas toward implementation.