

State Of Maryland

2020 Bond Initiative Fact Sheet

1. Name Of Project		
The Community Ecology Institute		
2. Senate Sponsor	3. House Sponsor	
Howard County Senators	Howard County Delegation	
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)	5. Requested Amount	
Howard County	\$100,000	
6. Purpose of Bond Initiative		
the acquisition, planning, design, construction, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping of the Community Ecology Center		
7. Matching Fund		
Requirements: Equal	Type: The matching fund may consist of real property.	
8. Special Provisions		
<input type="checkbox"/> Historical Easement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Sectarian	
9. Contact Name and Title	Contact Ph#	Email Address
Chiara D'Amore	443-832-3824	cdamore@communityecologyinstitute.org
10. Description and Purpose of Organization (Limit length to visible area)		
<p>A Howard County based non-profit, CEI's vision is for a world in which human and natural communities thrive together. Our mission is to foster socially and ecologically healthy communities by enhancing diverse connections between all people and the natural environment. We focus our efforts at the intersection of health, education, and the environment in four primary areas of work: Connection to Nature, Civic Ecology, Community Health, and Climate Action. In the past four years, we have served more than 10,000 program participants in central Maryland with meaningful experiences that help them connect with and care for the environment.</p>		

11. Description and Purpose of Project (Limit length to visible area)

Based on our work in the community CEI was given the opportunity to purchase the last working farm in the town of Columbia. We were able to raise over \$250,000 in just three months to purchase this 6.4 acre organic farm and protect it from development. We are transforming the property into a Community Ecology Center where people can learn through hands-on experience about how to lead happier, healthier, more connected and sustainable lives. The goal of the center is to be an innovative, nature-based learning laboratory that inspires generations to build environmental curiosity, understanding, and respect. Small, local, community-based ecology centers have the power to transform communities, healing the environment and bringing people together with a sense of hope and purpose for the future. As we create this Community Ecology Center, we will be developing resources to help other communities strengthen their local resilience.

Round all amounts to the nearest \$1,000. The totals in Items 12 (Estimated Capital Costs) and 13 (Proposed Funding Sources) must match. The proposed funding sources must not include the value of real property unless an equivalent value is shown under Estimated Capital Costs.

12. Estimated Capital Costs

Acquisition	
Design	\$30,000
Construction	\$370,000
Equipment	
Total	\$400,000

13. Proposed Funding Sources - (List all funding sources and amounts.)

Private donations - already secured.	\$100,000
County grant - application submitted	\$50,000
France-Merrick Foundation - application submitted	\$50,000
Bond bill - pending this request	\$100,000
Capital campaign - forthcoming this spring	\$100,000
Total	\$400,000

14. Project Schedule (Enter a date or one of the following in each box. N/A, TBD or Complete)			
Begin Design	Complete Design	Begin Construction	Complete Construction
3/15/2020	5/30/2020	8/1/2020	10/15/2020
15. Total Private Funds and Pledges Raised	16. Current Number of People Served Annually at Project Site		17. Number of People to be Served Annually After the Project is Complete
100000	5,000		20,000
18. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in the Past 15 Years			
Legislative Session	Amount	Purpose	
N/A			
19. Legal Name and Address of Grantee		Project Address (If Different)	
The Community Ecology Institute 8000 Harriet Tubman Lane Columbia, MD 21044		N/A	
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located	13 - Howard County		
21. Legal Status of Grantee (Please Check One)			
Local Govt.	For Profit	Non Profit	Federal
[]	[]	[X]	[]
22. Grantee Legal Representative		23. If Match Includes Real Property:	
Name:	Jeff Agnor	Has An Appraisal Been Done?	Yes/No
Phone:	410-707-8183		Yes
Address:		If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value	
10211 Wincopin Cir #600, Columbia, MD 21044		5/8/2019	540000.00

24. Impact of Project on Staffing and Operating Cost at Project Site			
Current # of Employees	Projected # of Employees	Current Operating Budget	Projected Operating Budget
7	14	110000	250000
25. Ownership of Property (Info Requested by Treasurer's Office for bond purposes)			
A. Will the grantee own or lease (pick one) the property to be improved?			Own
B. If owned, does the grantee plan to sell within 15 years?			No
C. Does the grantee intend to lease any portion of the property to others?			Yes
D. If property is owned by grantee any space is to be leased, provide the following:			
Lessee	Terms of Lease	Cost Covered by Lease	Square Footage Leased
Howard EcoWorks	1 year	\$500 / mo	outdoor
Interior space leases to mission related			
E. If property is leased by grantee - Provide the following:			
Name of Leaser	Length of Lease	Options to Renew	
N/A			
26. Building Square Footage:			
Current Space GSF	4,000		
Space to be Renovated GSF	4,000		
New GSF	N/A		

27. Year of Construction of Any Structures Proposed for Renovation, Restoration or Conversion

2009

28. Comments

In order to maximize the potential of the farm and create a Community Ecology Center, the existing 4,000 square foot timber framed barn structure on the property needs to be renovated. This request is for part of the capital funds needed for the building renovation. A local commercial builder has offered to serve as a bro-bono construction coordinator for the project and help secure at cost and pro-bono services from their trades, which would potentially reduce the estimated cost. CEI is in the process of working with an architect with expertise in green building to develop the design for the experiential education center. We intend for the building itself to be a source of education, demonstrating energy and water efficiency practices, renewable energy and other sustainable practices, potentially achieving zero net energy and/or living building status. It is our goal to submit the plans for a commercial building permit to the county by June of 2020 and be able to begin construction in August with available funds.

Specific objectives around the community educational programming we are developing include:

Environmental sustainability and climate action teaching people how they can make choices that protect and restore the environment;

Growing food and agricultural knowledge teaching people how they can grow food in an area of any size and about strategies for ecologically healthy agricultural practices;

Nature-based experiential education programming engaging students in hands on opportunities to learn about a wide range of topics related to their specific areas of interest such as life sciences, social sciences, and innovative educational strategies;

Health and nutrition programming education on the importance of healthy food choices, how to cook with locally grown foods, and mindfulness and well-being focused workshops; and

Cultural land heritage programming we are developing a Know Your Roots program that helps people to connect to the important history of the people who have lived on the farms land.

CEI worked quickly to secure this rare urban farm so it can be made available for public education and enjoyment. This capital request to support a unique community experiential and environmental education center will help to ensure that future generations connection to the environment is enhanced and that a more diverse and inclusive community of people are able to have positive, nature-based experiential educational opportunities. The Community Ecology Center will strategically engage people across the life course in learning how they can be a part of the solution to the environmental crises that we face, starting with restoring the farm land and rippling out to protect and restore habitats and communities throughout Maryland.

One of our most active program participants shared the following about why CEI's programs have made a difference for her family: You engage diverse people who otherwise wouldn't come together and inspire them to make connections - with each other, with their neighbors, in their communities, and with their ecosystems. You are a bridge, not only between people, but between communities because of your significant involvement in so many important causes. In short, you help us to be better more connected, more engaged, more determined to make a difference."