

## Chapter 158

**(House Bill 510)**

AN ACT concerning

**Business Facade Improvement Program – Eligible Funding Recipients**

FOR the purpose of expanding the eligible recipients of funding provided by the Department of Housing and Community Development under the Business Facade Improvement Program to include certain community development organizations; and generally relating to the Business Facade Improvement Program.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Housing and Community Development

Section 6–1101 and 6–1102

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2019 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article – Housing and Community Development**

6–1101.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) **“COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION” MEANS AN ENTITY THAT MEETS THE QUALIFICATIONS OF § 6–203 OF THIS TITLE.**

(c) “Program” means the Business Facade Improvement Program.

**[(c)] (D)** “Qualified business” means a business that:

(1) is located in a sustainable community; and

(2) plans to improve the outside appearance of the business’s building or facility.

**[(d)] (E)** “Sustainable community” means an area designated as a sustainable community under § 6–205 of this title.

6–1102.

(a) There is a Business Facade Improvement Program in the Department.

(b) The purpose of the Program is to assist qualified businesses with improving the outside appearance of the businesses' buildings and facilities.

(c) (1) The Department shall distribute funds from the Program to:

**(I)** political subdivisions that:

**[(i)]** 1. have at least one sustainable community; and

**[(ii)]** 2. apply for the funds; **AND**

**(II) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS THAT:**

**1. SERVE AT LEAST ONE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY; AND**

**2. APPLY FOR THE FUNDS.**

(2) The Department shall develop:

(i) an application process for **[political subdivisions] APPLICANTS** seeking to participate in the Program; and

(ii) criteria for:

1. rating political subdivisions **AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS** that apply for funds; and

2. awarding funds to political subdivisions **AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS**.

(d) (1) Each **[political subdivision] APPLICANT** that receives funds under subsection (c) of this section shall distribute grants to qualified businesses that apply for a grant.

(2) Each political subdivision **AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION** shall develop:

(i) a grant application process for qualified businesses seeking to participate in the Program; and

(ii) criteria for:

1. rating qualified businesses that apply for grants; and

2. awarding grants to qualified businesses.

(e) For fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Governor shall include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$5,000,000 to the Program.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

**Approved by the Governor, April 25, 2024.**