

DA07
Department of Aging

Capital Budget Summary

Grant and Loan *Capital Improvement Program*
(\$ in Millions)

<i>Program</i>	<i>2014 Approp.</i>	<i>2015 Approp.</i>	<i>2016 Request</i>	<i>2017 Estimate</i>	<i>2018 Estimate</i>	<i>2019 Estimate</i>	<i>2020 Estimate</i>
Senior Center Capital Grant Program	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$1.011	\$2.000	\$2.000	\$2.000	\$2.000
Total	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$1.011	\$2.000	\$2.000	\$2.000	\$2.000

<i>Fund Source</i>	<i>2014 Approp.</i>	<i>2015 Approp.</i>	<i>2016 Request</i>	<i>2017 Estimate</i>	<i>2018 Estimate</i>	<i>2019 Estimate</i>	<i>2020 Estimate</i>
GO Bonds	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$1.011	\$2.000	\$2.000	\$2.000	\$2.000
Total	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$1.011	\$2.000	\$2.000	\$2.000	\$2.000

GO: general obligation

Summary of Recommended Bond Actions

1. Senior Centers Grant Program

Approve funding for the Senior Center Capital Grant Program.

Program Description

Program Description: The Senior Center Capital Grant Program provides financial assistance to local governments for the acquisition, design, construction, renovation, and equipping of senior centers. These centers provide programs and services to support seniors with health screening, congregate meals, continuing education, recreational programs, and information and assistance programs. The State may provide a grant of up to 50% of the project cost, not to exceed \$800,000, and local governments are required to match State funds on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

There are 112 senior centers in Maryland serving the elderly population by offering health, social, nutrition, education, and recreational services – the core program offerings in senior centers. Programs beyond these core services are determined by the needs and preferences of the population in the centers.

Approval of two projects totaling \$931,000 in general obligation (GO) bonds is included in the fiscal 2016 allowance, in addition to \$81,000 for another project that received initial funding in fiscal 2015.

Budget Overview

The Governor's allowance totals \$1.0 million in GO bonds for the Senior Center Capital Grant Program, leveraging \$1.4 million in local matching funds. Two senior centers in Baltimore County (Ateaze Senior Center in Dundalk and the Overlea Senior Center in Baltimore) are programmed for parking lot resurfacing (\$0.1 million in GO bonds) to address unsafe walking conditions for seniors who visit. In Prince George's County, District Heights is programmed to receive \$0.8 million to assist in building an addition to the jurisdiction's municipal building that will serve as a new senior center. The new facility is expected to require 3 new positions, and the Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) reports that the town has budgeted funding for the positions once the new construction is complete.

An additional \$81,000 is included for the Chesapeake Grove Intergenerational Center in Dorchester County. This project received initial State support in fiscal 2015 with recycled funds from a project authorized in 2013 in Washington County that was cancelled when the county was unable to fulfill the matching requirement. MDOA used \$719,000 of that project's allotment for planning and construction of the Intergenerational Center. However, it is eligible for the full \$800,000, and the balance is included in the fiscal 2016 allowance.

Program Demand

For fiscal 2016, MDOA only received funding requests from the Baltimore and Prince George's counties' projects included in the allowance. There have also been years in which MDOA receives no requests. The senior centers are locally operated, and the jurisdictions must be sure that they can pay for their share of the capital costs and the added operating costs that a new, expanded, or renovated

senior center would require. The \$800,000 State limit would only subsidize a small part of a large renovation project or new construction.

Another aspect of the program affecting demand is that the \$800,000 limit is for each senior center's lifetime. Once a center reaches that amount, it is no longer eligible for support under the Senior Center Capital Grant Program. Demand for the program may increase if this limit were reduced to \$800,000 every 10 or 20 years rather than the lifetime of the facility. A small number of projects have been requested that were not funded because of this limit. **The Secretary should comment on local demand for the Senior Center Capital Grant Program and the impediments to expanded use.**

GO Bond Recommended Actions

1. Approve funding for the Senior Center Capital Grant Program.