



# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700 County Council

## POSITION STATEMENT

**SB482\HB694 Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024)**

Speaker et al.

(Appropriations and Health and Government Operations)

President et al.

(Budget and Taxation and Education, Energy, and the Environment)

## POSITION:      SUPPORT w/AMENDMENTS

SB482\HB694 - Establishing the Governor's Office for Children and the Special Secretary of the Governor's Office for Children as the head of the Office; requiring the Special Secretary to establish the ENOUGH grant program, subject to certain requirements; requiring the Office to assign certain staff for a certain purpose; establishing certain reporting and evaluation requirements; establishing the ENOUGH Grant Fund as a special, non-lapsing fund; requiring the Governor to appropriate \$15,000,000 to the fund for fiscal year 2026; etc.

The Prince George's County Council supports the ENOUGH Act w/Amendments acknowledging its importance in addressing the multifaceted issue of child poverty.

In designating the Special Secretary of the Governor's Office for Children as the head of the office with the authority to establish the ENOUGH Grant Program, the Act exemplifies a strategic and authoritative approach. The ENOUGH Grant Program seeks to propel place-based strategies targeting child poverty, emphasizing community health and safety, comprehensive education and care, access to quality jobs, and ensuring family-sustaining income and essential services.

The legislation's emphasis on diverse grant types, including technical assistance, neighborhood implementation grants, regional implementation grants, and planning grants, signifies a commitment to a comprehensive and tailored strategy to combat child poverty.

Recognizing the need for targeted intervention, the legislation establishes criteria for eligibility for neighborhood implementation grants, prioritizing communities with over 20% child poverty. The Council believes that this number should be revised to ensure that this program is laser-focused on the communities most at need. It further encourages collaborative partnerships among community-based organizations, public schools, and local governmental entities, fostering a unified approach to addressing this critical issue.

The provision of dedicated support, with at least one staff person assigned to each partnership receiving a neighborhood implementation grant, underscores the commitment to effective implementation. These individuals will play a pivotal role in assisting partnerships in navigating funding streams and serving as liaisons between the partnership and state government.

The legislation's annual reporting on the ENOUGH Grant Program, coupled with an evaluation by June 1, 2027, focusing on progress, impact, and policy changes, reflects a commitment to transparency and accountability.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council SUPPORTS SB482\HB694 w/AMENDMENTS and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of its position.

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Prepared by: Carrington & Associates, LLC  
On behalf of Prince George's County Council