



HB 1224 – Housing – Community Development Fund Program Act - Funding

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

February 27, 2024

Position: FAVORABLE

Arundel Community Development Services, Inc. (ACDS), urges you to **support HB 1224 – Housing – Community Development Fund Program Act – Funding**. ACDS serves as Anne Arundel County’s nonprofit housing and community development agency, helping Anne Arundel County residents and communities thrive through the provision of affordable and sustainable housing opportunities, programs to prevent evictions and end homelessness, and community development initiatives. In fulfilling this role, ACDS administers numerous grants to nonprofit partners, directly develops and implements programming, and develops housing and community development strategies for Anne Arundel County.

HB 1224 creates a permanent funding source for the Community Development Fund, which was created in 2018 to provide financial assistance for community development projects and community development organizations around the State. Adequate operating dollars are critical to support the work of community-based organizations that do the work required for robust, effective community development programs. These organizations engage every day in the hard work of creating and sustaining affordable housing, initiating and completing neighborhood and commercial revitalization projects, providing housing and financial counseling, supporting small business development and the provision of key community services, and much more.

Our County has long prioritized financial support for community-based organizations because we understand that general operating funds are a key part of ensuring that nonprofits doing critical work for our community can sustain their day-to-day operations and meet their basic operational needs, such as making payroll and rent. However, **local funding alone does not begin to meet demand. ACDS administers locally available Public Services funds through grants to local nonprofits. Every year, the funding requests we receive from great nonprofits that implement crucial programs far exceed the funds available to meet the operating expenses of those nonprofits. This severely limits their ability to administer crucial programs to support those most in need in our community.** This bill would go a long way toward ensuring that Maryland’s excellent community development partners are actually able to do the community development work they are set up and ready to do.

For the reasons noted above, we urge you to issue a FAVORABLE report for HB1224.