

State Of Maryland

2024 Bond Initiative Fact Sheet

1. Name Of Project		
Innovative Initiative STEM and Cyber-Security Program		
2. Senate Sponsor	3. House Sponsor	
Carter	Ruff	
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)	5. Requested Amount	
Baltimore City	\$400,000	
6. Purpose of Bond Initiative		
the acquisition, planning, design, construction, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping of the Innovative Initiative STEM and Cyber-Security Program property		
7. Matching Fund		
Requirements:	Type:	
Grant		
8. Special Provisions		
<input type="checkbox"/> Historical Easement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Sectarian	
9. Contact Name and Title	Contact Ph#	Email Address
Delegate Malcolm Ruff		malcolm.ruff@house.state.md.u
James Mitchell		443-762-4215
10. Description and Purpose of Organization (Limit length to visible area)		
<p>Innovative Initiatives Inc. is a dynamic non-profit organization nestled within the vibrant Langston Hughes Community & Resource Center, committed to fostering a culture of continuous learning and innovation in the Park Heights area of Baltimore, MD. Innovative Initiatives Inc. was founded in 2023 to support the need for STEM programming for those in marginalized communities. This particular community is rich in culture yet, absent of resources. With a profound dedication to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education, Innovative Initiatives Inc. serves a diverse demographic, offering tailored programs for youth, adults, and senior citizens alike cost free. The organization's mission is threefold: to inspire, educate, and empower the Park Heights community.</p>		

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

This transformative opportunity that lies at the heart of our community requires these renovations of a crucial space within the Langston Hughes Community and Resource Center supporting Innovative Initiatives Inc. This project is not just about repairing a building; it's about rekindling hope, nurturing potential, and building a stronger, more resilient community through free, accessible services. This beloved facility, a cornerstone of hope and learning in the Park Heights area, urgently requires this support. The scope of this vital renovation includes essential roof repairs to shield our dreams from the elements, an HVAC system replacement to ensure a comfortable and conducive learning environment, and the establishment of a state-of-the-art server room to keep pace with the digital demands of our innovative programs.

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	\$85,000
Construction	\$155,000
Equipment	\$200,000
Total	\$440,000

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

Greater Baltimore Urban League (in-Kind construction pr	\$25,000
Private contributions	\$15,000
Bond Bill	\$400,000
Total	\$440,000

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
TBD	TBD	TBA	TBA
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	
163000.00	\$3,000	\$5,000	
18. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in the Past 15 Years			
Legislative Session	Amount	Purpose	
N/A	\$0		
19. Legal Name and Address of Grantee		Project Address (If Different)	
Innovative Initiatives, Inc.		5011 Arbutus Ave Suite 200	
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located	41 - Baltimore City		
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:	N/A	Has An Appraisal Been Done?	Yes/No
Phone:			No
Address:		If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value	

24. Impact of Project on Staffing and Operating Cost at Project Site				
Current # of Employees	Projected # of Employees	Current Operating Budget	Projected Operating Budget	
1	3	150000.00	250000.00	
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?			Lease	
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?			No	
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
E. If property is leased by grantee - Provide the following:				
Name of Leaser		Length of Lease	Options to Renew	
26. Building Square Footage:				
Current Space GSF				
Space to be Renovated GSF				
New GSF				

27. Year of Construction of Any Structures Proposed for Renovation, Restoration or Conversion	Unknown
28. Comments	
<p>Question 10 cont. By instilling a sense of wonder and curiosity about the world of STEM, Innovative Initiatives Inc. aims to inspire individuals of all ages, sparking a lifelong passion for knowledge and discovery to pride economic sustainability for generations to come. Education lies at the heart of the organization's endeavors, with a wide array of engaging and hands-on programs designed to provide the community with the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in an increasingly technology-driven world. Empowerment is a core principle, as Innovative Initiatives Inc. strives to equip each participant with the confidence and tools required to transform their newfound STEM knowledge into impactful, real-world applications.</p> <p>In a community where access to quality STEM education and resources may be limited, Innovative Initiatives Inc. stands as a beacon of hope, opportunity and growth. Through its dedication to nurturing minds and building a foundation for future success, the organization plays a pivotal role in shaping a brighter, more innovative future for the Park Heights community.</p> <p>Question 11 cont. Moreover, comprehensive site improvements are planned to enhance accessibility and safety for every community member who walks through our doors. The impact of this renovation goes far beyond the physical structure of our building. By investing in these improvements, it is directly contributing to a safe, welcoming space where children can ignite their passion for STEM, where adults can acquire valuable skills for a better future, and where senior citizens can stay connected and engaged in this fast-evolving digital age. We are not just repairing a building; we desire to rebuild lives and empower an entire community to rise.</p> <p>28. Comments</p> <p>Innovative Initiatives Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit subsidiary of Reasonable Tech Solutions Inc., embodies a profound commitment to bridging the digital divide in STEM education within Baltimore City. Founded on the technological expertise of Reasonable Tech Solutions established in 2013 with a specialization in cybersecurity, network security, helpdesk services, computer repair, and training Innovative Initiatives emerged from a pivotal 2017 meeting between our CEO and community organizations concerned about the inaccessibility of affordable STEM education for local youth. This led to the launch of free, engaging STEM programs at the Langston Hughes Community Center and the YMCA on 33rd Street in 2018, aimed at sparking youth interest in STEM through hands-on activities like Minecraft Coding with Microsoft Corp, a Youth Build a Computer Program, and innovative Makey Makey Labs projects.</p> <p>Despite the interruption of our programs in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our dedication to making STEM education accessible remained unwavering. In 2022, after thorough consultations with community stakeholders and recognizing both the persistent need and growing interest among youth in STEM fields, Innovative Initiatives was founded. Our goal is to reduce the digital divide by offering free STEM programs and certification training to Baltimore City's youth aged 16-24, ensuring they have the opportunity to explore and excel in the increasingly important STEM landscape.</p> <p>STEM education promotes problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, curiosity, decision-</p>	