

State of Maryland

2007 Bond Bill Fact Sheet

1. Senate		House		2. Name of Project
LR #	Bill #	LR #	Bill #	
3035	SB838	3108	HB1299	ConneXions Community Leadership Academy
3. Senate Bill Sponsors				House Bill Sponsors
Gladden				Oaks
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)				5. Requested Amount
Baltimore City				\$100,000
6. Purpose of Bill				
Grant to the Board of Directors of the Baltimore Teacher Network, Inc. for the acquisition, construction, repair, renovation, and capital equipping of the ConneXions Community Leadership Academy.				
7. Matching Fund Requirements				
Grantee shall provide and expend a matching fund. No part of the grantee's matching fund may be provided, either directly or indirectly, from funds of the State, whether appropriated or unappropriated. The fund may consist of real property, in kind contributions, or funds expended prior to the effective date of this Act.				
8. Special Provisions				
None				
9. Contact Name and Title			Contact Phone	Email Address
Rodney Powell			410-908-8187	rlpowell@bcps.k12.md.us
10. Description and Purpose of Grantee Organization (3000 characters maximum)				
<p>ConneXions Community Leadership Academy is a teacher-led Charter middle/high school with a strong focus on project-based learning as well as development through the Arts. The school currently houses grades 6 through 9. We will add one grade per year until we reach grade 12. Students at ConneXions are exposed to a supportive environment with high academic standards. In an effort to develop well rounded students, the environment is saturated with African dance and drumming, hip-hop dance, visual arts, martial arts, and foreign language, all provided by independent artists from the local community. Students are also exposed to travel opportunities through the goodwill and time contributions of staff and community members locally and in host cities and towns all over the east coast. Normal program funding is provided through the Charter school, per pupil funding formula. Additional programming is supported by staff that volunteer hours beyond their normal teaching duties as well as fundraising efforts initiated by staff, students, and the Parent Action Team.</p> <p>The population served at ConneXions is almost completely African-American, lower income to working class, mostly from West Baltimore. There are no entrance requirements. Students are accepted based on a lottery conducted each spring. Current enrollment is approximately 160 (40 per class). The projected enrollment at full capacity is 280 students.</p>				

11. Description and Purpose of Project (3000 characters maximum)			
<p>ConneXions' current building is a modular unit located behind a large middle school. The approximate size of the building is 8,000 square feet. There are 9 classrooms, and 1.5 offices. Due to the lack of a cafeteria, students walk to Lemmel Middle School to get lunch and bring it back to the school to eat. Whole school meetings are held in the hallway. The performing arts classes are bussed each day to a separate facility (Sankofa Dance Theater) for the last 2.5 hours of the day.</p> <p>Despite our efforts to tap into the BCPSS facilities restructuring process, we have been unable to find a space to grow into. We are unable to accept the incoming (2007-08) class of 6th graders at our current location. This will cause hardship for 40 families, especially those with siblings already at ConneXions. We are seeking financial support to find a suitable space in which to continue the vitally important educational programming provided by ConneXions. As our population nearly doubles, we desire at least twice the space we currently have, bringing the total square footage to between 16,000 and 20,000 square feet. This would provide us with more classroom space for students and the additional teachers required to teach them. We will hire approximately 10 new staff members in the next 3 years. The additional space will also provide performance/rehearsal space, science labs, and art studio space. Initial funds will be applied to the design portion of the overall project. We will be working with architects to help bring our vision to fruition.</p>			
<i>Round all amounts to the nearest \$1,000. The totals in Items 11 (Estimated Capital Costs) and 12 (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.</i>			
12. Estimated Capital Costs			
Acquisition		\$100,000(lease)	
Design		\$100,000	
Construction		\$1,000,000	
Equipment		Included in construction	
Total		\$1,200,000	
13. Proposed Funding Sources – (List all funding sources and amounts.)			
Source		Amount	
In-kind donations/Fundraising		\$100,000	
Bond Bill		\$100,000	
Charter School Grant Foundation		\$900,000	
BCPSS Charter School Per Pupil Allocation for Facilities		\$100,000	
Total		\$1,200,000	
14. Project Schedule			
Begin Design	Complete Design	Begin Construction	Complete Construction
July 2007	June 2008	July 2008	June 2009
15. Total Private Funds and Pledges Raised as of January 2007	16. Current Number of People Served Annually at Project Site	17. Number of People to be Served Annually After the Project is Complete	

None		160	280-300
18. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in Past 15 Years			
Legislative Session	Amount	Purpose	
None	NA	NA	
19. Legal Name and Address of Grantee		Project Address (If Different)	
Baltimore Teachers Network 2105 Kentucky Ave. Baltimore, MD 21218		Not yet determined	
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located			41
21. Legal Status of Grantee (Please Check one)			
Local Govt.	For Profit	Non Profit	Federal
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22. Grantee Legal Representative		23. If Match Includes Real Property:	
Name:		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
21	35	\$800,000	\$1,600,000
25. Ownership of Property (Info Requested by Treasurer's Office for bond issuance purposes)			
A. Will the grantee <u>own</u> or <u>lease</u> (pick one) the property to be improved?			lease
B. If owned, does the grantee plan to sell within 15 years?			
C. Does the grantee intend to lease any portion of the property to others?			Not currently
D. If property is owned by grantee and 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	
Not yet determined	NA	NA	

26. Building Square Footage:		
Current Space GSF	8,000 square feet	
Space to Be Renovated GSF	16,000-20,000 square feet	
New GSF	16,000-20,000 square feet	
27. Year of Construction of Any Structures Proposed for Renovation, Restoration or Conversion		
28. Comments: (3000 characters maximum)		
Acquisition of these funds will help us to begin on a project that will greatly increase the academic success and quality of life for 300 of Baltimore City's youth and their families. We appreciate your consideration.		