

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 377 (Senators Zirkin and Gladden)
Budget and Taxation

Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2007 - Baltimore City - THE ASSOCIATED: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore

This bill expands the authorized use of funds in the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2007 to include the design, construction, and capital equipping of community development office space at the site of THE ASSOCIATED's Jewish Community Center Campus in Owings Mills.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2008.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Expanding the authorized use of funds would not materially affect State finances or operations.

Local Effect: The bill would not affect the finances or operations of Baltimore City or Baltimore County.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 488 of 2007 authorized up to \$2.5 million in matching funds to THE ASSOCIATED: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, as grantee, for the design, construction, and capital equipping of a community development building in the Park Heights Avenue neighborhood of Baltimore City, near the grantee's existing

campus. The grantee is required to present evidence to the Board of Public Works by June 1, 2009 that matching funds will be provided.

Background: The 2007 grant to THE ASSOCIATED: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore was intended as a \$6 million effort to construct a new community development building in the Park Heights Avenue neighborhood to replace the current offices of Comprehensive Housing Assistance, Inc. Services at the new building were to include housing assistance, vocational services, volunteer services, and counseling, as provided by the grantee's member organizations.

Subsequent to the 2007 authorization, the grantee found that the parcel of land identified for the new building was not large enough to accommodate the construction. The Park Heights Avenue building has been rescaled to 16,000 square feet, rather than 24,000 square feet. The estimated cost of the construction has been reduced from \$6 million to \$4 million. Given the estimated costs of the construction, the grantee would not be able to fully expend the \$2.5 million matching fund grant for this project alone.

In order to accommodate all of the programs intended for the new center, the grantee has elected to also expand its existing Owings Mills Jewish Community Center with a two-story, 30,000 square foot addition at an estimated cost of \$6 million. Vocational and volunteer services will be located at the Owings Mills center, as well as family services personnel. The proposed change would allow the grantee to accommodate all member organizations and make full use of available grant funds.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 464 (Delegate Cardin, *et al.*) – Appropriations.

Information Source(s): Department of General Services, Baltimore Jewish Council, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 3, 2008
ncs/ljm

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