

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 250 (Senators Brinkley and Young)  
Budget and Taxation

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Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2011 - Frederick County -  
Frederick Alliance For Youth - Youth and Community Center

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This bill changes the grantee and purpose for two grants specified in the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2011. The bill specifies that up to \$375,000 in matching funds are authorized to the Board of Directors of the Mental Health Association (MHA) of Frederick County, Inc. for the renovation, construction, and capital equipping of the MHA building.

The bill also extends the deadline by two years – from June 1, 2013, to June 1, 2015 – for the new grantee to present evidence that matching funds will be provided. The bill likewise specifies that the grants may not terminate before June 1, 2015.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2013.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The bill does not directly affect State finances or operations.

**Local Effect:** The bill does not directly affect the finances or operations of Frederick County.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Chapter 396 of 2011 (HB 71) authorized a total of up to \$375,000 in matching funds to the Board of Directors of the Frederick Alliance for Youth, Inc. for the

acquisition, planning, design, and construction of the Frederick Alliance for Youth – Youth and Community Center. Matching funds may not consist of real property, in-kind contributions, or funds expended prior to the June 1, 2011 effective date of Chapter 396. The grantee has until June 1, 2013, to *present evidence* that matching funds will be provided; however, the *proceeds* of the loans must be expended or encumbered by the Board of Public Works by December 1, 2014. If any funds remain unexpended or unencumbered after December 1, 2014, the amount of the unexpended or unencumbered authorizations must be canceled. Chapter 396 authorized two separate grants totaling \$375,000 for this project. The bill’s changes apply to both grants.

Chapter 485 of 2009 (HB 102) authorized a total of up to \$250,000 in matching funds to the Board of Directors of MHA for the acquisition, planning, design, renovation, and reconstruction of a building for the MHA building located in Frederick. Matching funds may not consist of in-kind contributions or real property, but they may consist of funds expended prior to the June 1, 2009 effective date of Chapter 485.

Chapter 444 of 2012 (SB 151) authorized up to \$75,000 in matching funds to the Board of Directors of MHA for the renovation of the MHA building. Matching funds may not consist of real property, but they may consist of in-kind contributions or funds expended prior to the June 1, 2012 effective date of Chapter 444.

**Background:** MHA’s mission is to build a strong foundation of emotional wellness by educating, empowering, and advocating for children, adults, and families through a wide array of services. The grants are being transferred to MHA because the Frederick Alliance for Youth, Inc. has suspended operations and is currently without a staff. MHA has a “shovel ready” project that will serve a similar geographic population.

Incorporated in 1965, MHA now offers therapy for low-income people; 24-hour information, referral, and crisis intervention; statewide 2-1-1 call center services; intensive case management for high-risk families; mental health first aid training for the general public; court appointed special advocates who advocate for the best interest of abused children in the foster care system; supervised visitation for divorced parents to visit with and transfer their children in a setting safe for all; training and technical assistance for child care providers; early childhood mental health services in child care settings; a support group for survivors of suicide; and telephone outreach to isolated seniors.

To accommodate significant and rapid growth, as well as anticipated future expansion, in March 2010 MHA purchased an 11,000-square-foot building. MHA completed total exterior and interior renovations on one portion of the building in spring 2012 and moved into the 7,000-square-foot office portion on May 1, 2012.

The monies authorized by the bill will go toward phase II of the project, which calls for total interior and exterior renovation of the remaining 4,000 square feet, which will be the community services wing. This space will include an expanded suite for its 24-hour 2-1-1 and crisis hotline services; two group rooms for group therapy and the survivors of suicide support group; one large child friendly area, which can be divided into two rooms, for child therapy, child care for children whose parents are attending classes, supervised visitation, and monitored transfer activities; and a large conference room, which also can be divided into two rooms, for extensive training and education activities. MHA will add a ceiling to this space, giving it 4,000 square feet for future expansion. Phase II construction will include two new exterior stairwells and an elevator to access the new second floor. A contractor has been selected through competitive bidding. Construction is anticipated to begin in fall 2013, once MHA has raised an additional \$300,000, of an initial total project budget of almost \$3.5 million.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 76 (Delegate Clagett) - Appropriations.

**Information Source(s):** Department of General Services, Frederick County, Mental Health Association of Frederick County, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 21, 2013  
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Analysis by: Caroline L. Boice

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510