

# State Of Maryland

## 2020 Bond Initiative Fact Sheet

<b>1. Name Of Project</b>		
BLISS Meadows Farmhouse		
<b>2. Senate Sponsor</b>	<b>3. House Sponsor</b>	
McCray		
<b>4. Jurisdiction</b> (County or Baltimore City)	<b>5. Requested Amount</b>	
Baltimore City	\$100,000	
<b>6. Purpose of Bond Initiative</b>		
the acquisition, planning, design, construction, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping of the BLISS Meadows Farmhouse facility		
<b>7. Matching Fund</b>		
Requirements:  Unequal \$50,000	Type: The grantee shall provide and expend a matching fund.	
<b>8. Special Provisions</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Historical Easement		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Sectarian
<b>9. Contact Name and Title</b>	<b>Contact Ph#</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
Atiya Wells	443-226-4783	blissmeadowsmd@gmail.com
<b>10. Description and Purpose of Organization</b> (Limit length to visible area)		
<p>In our organization, BLISS stands for Baltimore Living in Sustainable Simplicity. The mission of BLISS Meadows is to engage our neighbors on nature connection, urban agriculture, self-reliance, and sustainability. We accomplish our mission through place-based education at BLISS Meadows, weaving together over 10 acres of public and private land to provide a hub of operations that can be accessed by all members of our community. Meeting the people of Baltimore at their current level of comfort and knowledge of nature, we can energize and empower them to explore further and experience the connection, community and health benefits of the natural world. BLISS Meadows was founded by a pediatric nurse dedicated to developing programs and opportunities to connect communities to local urban nature.</p>		

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

In both Baltimore and urban communities throughout the United States, nature connection has historically and primarily been seen as a benefit for the privileged. Research confirms that access to nature and green spaces in US metropolitan areas is correlated with income, class, and race. In order to support the healthy development of our relationship with nature, we have to stop feeding the escapism narrative that you have to go away from your home to experience nature, and create opportunities within our local neighborhoods. In May 2019, we used GoFundMe to raise \$60K in just 26 days. The purpose of this campaign was to acquire a vacant building on the border of the property where we have started our nature programs. We will renovate this space to provide classroom space, a kitchen workshop, and offices. The building will help us to create additional multi-use space and establish BLISS Meadows as an ecology center and a place where neighbors can come together.

*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**

<b>Acquisition</b>	\$0
<b>Design</b>	\$3,000
<b>Construction</b>	\$197,000
<b>Equipment</b>	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>

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

Bond Bill	\$100,000
Foundation Grants	\$50,000
Private Fundraising	\$50,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>

<b>14. Project Schedule (Enter a date or one of the following in each box. N/A, TBD or Complete)</b>			
<b>Begin Design</b>	<b>Complete Design</b>	<b>Begin Construction</b>	<b>Complete Construction</b>
2/27/2020	3/31/2020	5/18/2020	5/18/2021
<b>15. Total Private Funds and Pledges Raised</b>	<b>16. Current Number of People Served Annually at Project Site</b>		<b>17. Number of People to be Served Annually After the Project is Complete</b>
50000.00	50 Families, 100 Visitors		5000 Families, 2000 Visitors
<b>18. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in the Past 15 Years</b>			
<b>Legislative Session</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	
MD			
<b>19. Legal Name and Address of Grantee</b>		<b>Project Address (If Different)</b>	
Backyard Basecamp, Inc. 4706 Moravia Road Baltimore, MD 21206		5111 Plainfield Ave Baltimore, MD 21206	
<b>20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located</b>	45 - Baltimore City		
<b>21. Legal Status of Grantee (Please Check One)</b>			
<b>Local Govt.</b>	<b>For Profit</b>	<b>Non Profit</b>	<b>Federal</b>
[ ]	[ ]	[ X ]	[ ]
<b>22. Grantee Legal Representative</b>		<b>23. If Match Includes Real Property:</b>	
<b>Name:</b>	Atiya Wells	<b>Has An Appraisal Been Done?</b>	Yes/No
<b>Phone:</b>	443-226-4783		No
<b>Address:</b>		<b>If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value</b>	
4706 Moravia Road Baltimore, MD 21206			

<b>24. Impact of Project on Staffing and Operating Cost at Project Site</b>			
<b>Current # of Employees</b>	<b>Projected # of Employees</b>	<b>Current Operating Budget</b>	<b>Projected Operating Budget</b>
2	6	85000.00	125000.00
<b>25. Ownership of Property</b> (Info Requested by Treasurer's Office for bond purposes)			
<b>A. Will the grantee own or lease (pick one) the property to be improved?</b>			Own
<b>B. If owned, does the grantee plan to sell within 15 years?</b>			No
<b>C. Does the grantee intend to lease any portion of the property to others?</b>			No
<b>D. If property is owned by grantee any space is to be leased, provide the following:</b>			
<b>Lessee</b>	<b>Terms of Lease</b>	<b>Cost Covered by Lease</b>	<b>Square Footage Leased</b>
<b>E. If property is leased by grantee - Provide the following:</b>			
<b>Name of Leaser</b>	<b>Length of Lease</b>	<b>Options to Renew</b>	
<b>26. Building Square Footage:</b>			
<b>Current Space GSF</b>	1864		
<b>Space to be Renovated GSF</b>	1864		
<b>New GSF</b>	N/A		

<b>27. Year of Construction of Any Structures Proposed for Renovation, Restoration or Conversion</b>	1928
<b>28. Comments</b>	
<p>At 2.5 square miles, Frankford is the largest neighborhood in the city of Baltimore. Based on 2010 census data, our Frankford neighborhood has a population of over 30,000 residents, 80% of which are African American, and 10% are foreign born persons of Hispanic or Latino descent. Over 60% of children in Frankford are in single parent families. 24% of households have income either below the federal poverty level, and an additional 32% of households are below the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, and Employed) threshold, which measures households above the federal poverty level but below the basic cost of living for the county. Predominantly Black and low-income neighborhoods like ours have historically been denied spatial access to parks and green spaces, high quality food and education. BLISS Meadows, with our dual focus on cultivating healthy food for our community and developing programs for community members to get outside, is meeting the needs of our community residents who have historically not had access to these basic human needs.</p> <p>In order to expand our reach and be a valued community asset, the long vacant home needs to be renovated into a safe communal space. The goals of BLISS Meadows are to be a place where the local community can come together to: have access to and learn about growing, preparing, and eating healthy food, to provide a place-based opportunity for members of our community to discover both cultural and natural history, in order to address current issues around equitable access to green spaces, and to build a replicable and scalable model to provide local neighborhoods with access to nature and resources for reconnecting with the outdoors.</p> <p>Too many times, outside organizations come into communities and end up falling short of actually being a community resource. With the support of our Community Association, this project, led by people from within the community, is a means to create access and investment, embedding BLISS Meadows into the community, and creating programming based on community needs. Backyard Basecamp, Inc is currently working with an architect and LEED certified engineer to design the building for our educational programming on sustainability, environmental, and nutritional programs providing a better quality of life for our neighbors.</p>	