

State Of Maryland

2021 Bond Initiative Fact Sheet

1. Name Of Project		
First Fruits Farm Packaging and Distribution Facility		
2. Senate Sponsor	3. House Sponsor	
	Mangione	
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)	5. Requested Amount	
Baltimore County	\$1,100,000	
6. Purpose of Bond Initiative		
the acquisition, planning, design, construction, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping of the packaging and distribution facility at the First Fruits Farm		
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 Nino Mangione		nino.mangione@house.state.md.us
10. Description and Purpose of Organization (Limit length to visible area)		
<p>First Fruits Farm, Inc is a Maryland non-profit ministry that grows and distributes vegetables to those in need throughout our region. Since 1998, tens of thousands of volunteer harvesters have helped us grow and distribute over 18 million pounds of fresh produce through a variety of networks, including food banks, pantries, churches and missions. We are the Mid-Atlantic's largest non-profit vegetable producer for charity and a flagship member of the Maryland Food Bank's "Farm to Food Bank" program. We are frequently the Maryland Food Bank's largest fresh vegetable supplier. The Farm offers a fellowship and service opportunity for people of all backgrounds in a natural setting that demonstrates God's grace and love. Many well know Maryland businesses, schools, churches, and government agencies volunteer with us annually.</p>		

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

Our plan is to construct a 14,000 square foot packaging/distribution facility that will enable us to take our produce from the harvest field (and from donated produce sources) and package the raw commodity into consumer friendly containers; generally 10 lb bags and 30 lb family boxes. This will significantly improve the effectiveness of our distribution efforts; in brief it will reduce cycle time, improve produce quality, and allow us to expand our ability to serve those in need. All of our distribution partners, such as the Maryland Food Bank and Catholic Charities, are in support of the project due to the numerous benefits to their respective organizations.

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	\$50,000
Construction	\$950,000
Equipment	\$100,000
Total	\$1,100,000

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

Central PA Food Bank	
First Fruits Farm, Inc.	
Maryland Food Bank	
Weinberg Foundation	
Total	\$0

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
2/12/2021	3/8/2021	4/14/2021	8/2/2021
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
		1.67 million	2.5 million
18. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in the Past 15 Years			
Legislative Session	Amount	Purpose	
19. Legal Name and Address of Grantee		Project Address (If Different)	
First Fruits Farm, Inc. 20431 Middletown Road Freeland, MD 21053			
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located	42B - Baltimore County		
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:	Richard Bernstein	Has An Appraisal Been Done?	Yes/No
Phone:	410-218-8289		No
Address:		If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value	
2025 Freeland Road Freeland MD 21053			

24. Impact of Project on Staffing and Operating Cost at Project Site			
Current # of Employees	Projected # of Employees	Current Operating Budget	Projected Operating Budget
3.5	4.5	500000.00	600000.00
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?			Own
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	0		
Space to be Renovated GSF	0		
New GSF	14,000		

27. Year of Construction of Any Structures Proposed for Renovation, Restoration or Conversion	
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28. Comments	
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This is a very important project for us, and for the hundreds of thousands of people in need we serve. Last year, during the height of the COVID crisis, our distribution partners asked us to improvise a solution to the challenges facing our traditional food distribution processes. Due to lots of outdoor space at the farm, we were in the best position to respond, so that needy Marylanders did not go without fresh produce. We are ready to respond again. The proposed facility will allow us to respond in a way that is more permanent, efficient, effective, safer, and will allow for a longer season of service (due to refrigeration and indoor storage).