

State Of Maryland

2024 Bond Initiative Fact Sheet

1. Name Of Project		
Operation THRIVING ACRES		
2. Senate Sponsor	3. House Sponsor	
Hershey	Jacobs	
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)	5. Requested Amount	
Kent County	\$150,000	
6. Purpose of Bond Initiative		
the acquisition, planning, design, construction, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping of a barn, herbal processing facility, commercial kitchen and other facilities		
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
Senator Steve Hershey		steve.hershey@senate.state.md.us
Heather Mizeur		240-464-8523
10. Description and Purpose of Organization (Limit length to visible area)		
MizMaryland, Inc. (also known as the #WeAreOne Alliance) is a federally recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a mission to bridge the polarization that is our greatest national security threat by offering programs to lessen the partisan divide, encourage community connection, collaborate for innovative solutions to our collective challenges, and foster dialogue that brings heart wisdom into civic engagement.		

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

Research supports nature as an effective therapeutic tool. Operation: THRIVING ACRES will create experiences that utilize plants, gardening, farming, and nature to empower individuals and groups of veterans whose lives have been affected by service-connected illness, injuries, disabilities, and post-traumatic stress disorder to achieve improvements in their cognitive, physical, social, emotional, and spiritual well-being. Veterans have spoken eloquently to us about their need for more opportunities to experience sacred grounding putting their hands in the dirt and reaping the therapeutic benefits of nurturing something that brings forth life. In addition to the therapeutic benefits, participants in this nature-based program will learn skills in herbal medicine-making. We will create a veteran-made label for their product brand. Sales of these items will support program expansion and vocational training and job opportunities for local veterans.

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	\$0
Design	\$15,000
Construction	\$427,800
Equipment	\$16,610
Total	\$459,410

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

Jennifer Lieber, Designer. Pro-bono design. Received.	\$15,000
Upper Shore Micro Ag Grant for equipment. Received.	\$8,305
MARBIDCO matching grant for equipment. Received.	\$8,305
LBI funding. Proposed.	\$150,000
ESLC conservation easment. Approved. Amount Pending	\$150,000
Horizon Farm Credit Loan. Pre-Approved.	\$150,000
Total	\$481,610

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
2/1/2024	3/28/2024	6/6/2024	10/7/2024
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
315000.00		0	720
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)	
MizMaryland, Inc. P.O. Box 851 Chestertown, MD 21620		Operation: THRIVING ACRES c/o Apotheosis Farm 10989 Augustine Herman Highway Chestertown, MD 21620	
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located		36 - Kent, Queen Anne's, Cecil, and Caroline Counties	
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:	Heather Mizeur	Has An Appraisal Been Done?	Yes/No
Phone:	240.464.8523		No
Address:		If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value	
10989 Augustine Herman Highway Chestertown, MD 21620			

24. Impact of Project on Staffing and Operating Cost at Project Site				
Current # of Employees	Projected # of Employees	Current Operating Budget	Projected Operating Budget	
1	3	120000.00	285000.00	
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?			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?				
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	
Apotheosis Farm, LLC		15 years	Yes	
26. Building Square Footage:				
Current Space GSF		1,825		
Space to be Renovated GSF		3,565		
New GSF		1,740		

27. Year of Construction of Any Structures Proposed for Renovation, Restoration or Conversion

1995

28. Comments

This project's building is acquired, construction design completed, and funding sources secured. We are shovel-ready to begin construction after receiving the state bond initiative support.

While this submission does not ask for supporting documents, we would be thrilled to offer copies of our completed design plan, lease agreement, loan application, conservation easement agreement, and grant funding letters from Upper Shore Regional and MARBIDCO. We also have a beautiful slide presentation on the programmatic details of Operation: THRIVING ACRES and support letters from Veterans working with us on this project.

The founder and CEO of MizMaryland is enrolled in the New York Botanical Garden's esteemed Therapeutic Horticulture certification program with a specialization serving Veterans populations. She has nearly completed the 200 hours of course requirements and has 100 hours of field work to finalize and graduate from the program.

We need more options for Veterans services on the Eastern Shore and Operation: THRIVING ACRES will help fill that void.

We have no acquisition costs. Apotheosis Farm is a partner within the #WeAreOne Alliance and is donating the barn in a 15-year shared use lease agreement with MizMaryland, Inc. (with options for renewal). Because we are renovating an existing structure, we do not have any permitting issues.

We are ready to go. Once again, our building has been acquired, our construction design is complete, and our funding sources have been secured. We are shovel-ready to begin construction after receiving the state bond initiative support. Thank you so much for your consideration of this worthy project.