

State Of Maryland

2025 Bond Initiative Fact Sheet

1. Name Of Project		
Baltimore Community Food Center		
2. Senate Sponsor	3. House Sponsor	
Salling		
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)	5. Requested Amount	
Baltimore County	\$225,000	
6. Purpose of Bond Initiative		
the acquisition, planning, design, construction, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping of the Baltimore Community Food Center, Essex property project		
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
Dr. Truphena Choti		2402738363
10. Description and Purpose of Organization (Limit length to visible area)		
<p>AfriThrive Inc. is a community-based nonprofit organization dedicated to addressing food insecurity and promoting health equity among underserved communities, particularly African immigrant and low-income families. Founded in 2019, AfriThrive provides culturally relevant food assistance, community gardening initiatives, nutrition education, and youth development programs to improve food access and overall well-being. The organizations purpose is to empower families through increased access to fresh, nutritious, and culturally appropriate foods while building self-sufficiency through education and sustainable food systems. AfriThrive collaborates with schools, faith-based organizations, local farmers, and community partners to create long-term solutions to hunger and economic challenges.</p>		

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

The Baltimore Community Food Center Project will renovate a facility in Essex, converting it into a hub for food access and economic empowerment. It will serve low-income families, particularly African immigrants, in a high-poverty, food-insecure area. This initiative will expand food distribution and integrate essential wraparound services to address both immediate needs and long-term community resilience. The project will introduce a community kitchen, cold storage, and a food pantry space, ensuring families have access to fresh, culturally relevant foods. Additionally, youth mentoring and financial literacy programs will equip families with critical life skills, building self-sufficiency. Renovations will include ADA-compliant upgrades, a caf space, and dedicated areas for financial education, and youth mentorship. The project also prioritizes food procurement, allocating funds to purchase and distribute nutritious, culturally appropriate foods.

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	\$50,000
Construction	\$405,000
Equipment	\$330,000
Total	\$785,000

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

Congressionally Directed Spending	\$800,000
Baltimore County	\$198,000
Maryland Food Bank	\$26,000
Fundraising	\$25,000
France-Merrick Foundation	\$50,000
Total	\$1,099,000

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
6/1/2025	7/31/2026	8/1/2025	12/31/2026
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	
75000.00	3,500	10,000	
18. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in the Past 15 Years			
Legislative Session	Amount	Purpose	
None		N/A	
19. Legal Name and Address of Grantee		Project Address (If Different)	
AFRITHRIVE, INC 1 TIVOLI LAKE CT. SILVER SPRING, MD 20906.		303 Eastern Blvd, Essex, MD 21221	
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located	6 - 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:	Dr Truphena Choti	Has An Appraisal Been Done?	Yes/No
Phone:	2402738363		Yes
Address:		If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value	

24. Impact of Project on Staffing and Operating Cost at Project Site			
Current # of Employees	Projected # of Employees	Current Operating Budget	Projected Operating Budget
4	8	1100000.00	1800000.00
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?			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	
303 Eastern Ave, LLC	15	Yes (2 Renewal Periods)	
26. Building Square Footage:			
Current Space GSF	3100		
Space to be Renovated GSF	3100		
New GSF	3200		

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

1980

28. Comments

The Baltimore Community Food Center Project has garnered support from local stakeholders, including community organizations, local government agencies, and food justice advocates. The project is shovel-ready and will commence within 5 months of funding approval, with a projected completion timeline of 18 months. Once finished, the center will provide a vital meeting space for the community, creating connections and collaboration. A key challenge in our food operations has been cold storage capacity, limiting our ability to store and distribute fresh, culturally relevant food efficiently. This project directly addresses that issue by expanding cold storage infrastructure, ensuring that thousands of food-insecure families have reliable access to fresh and nutritious food. This initiative will create long-term impact, strengthening food security in Baltimore County through expanded food access, education, and community engagement.