

State Of Maryland

2025 Bond Initiative Fact Sheet

1. Name Of Project		
Gentle Giants Center for Connection		
2. Senate Sponsor	3. House Sponsor	
Howard County Senators	Howard County Delegation	
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)	5. Requested Amount	
Howard County	\$750,000	
6. Purpose of Bond Initiative		
the acquisition, planning, design, construction, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping of the Gentle Giants Center property		
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
Christine Hajek		240-586-9220
10. Description and Purpose of Organization (Limit length to visible area)		
<p>Gentle Giants Draft Horse Rescue is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit equine welfare organization that facilitates the rescue of draft and draft cross horses from slaughter, abuse and neglect. Gentle Giants is one of the loudest national voices fighting to permanently end the slaughter of U.S. horses for human consumption. We've rescued over 1,500 horses who have been placed into permanent, loving homes. We house over 180 horses at our 300+ acre facility and offer lifetime sanctuary for those horses who are less likely to be adopted. In 2023, Gentle Giants was awarded the 2022 Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries Outstanding Sanctuary Award, recognizing Gentle Giants as the top animal sanctuary internationally.</p>		

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

The Gentle Giants Center for Connection will be a first of its kind program in Maryland, creating opportunities to experience the symbiotic relationship between humans and horses that cultivates a deep sense of enrichment, bridging the gap between two species through communication, empathy, and collaboration. Through shared experiences, and mutual trust, the relationship between humans and horses serves as a source of profound enrichment in both individuals' lives. These experiences will happen through E3A based equine facilitated learning programs, educational clinics, and retreats. The Center For Connection will also serve as a unique agritourism location and event center, as well as a meeting space for businesses and the community. Our goal is to provide low to no cost options for participants from the Fire and Police Departments, Paramedics, Front-Line Workers, Women's Shelters, as well as caretakers for the elderly or disabled.

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	\$0
Construction	\$1,215,000
Equipment	\$20,000
Total	\$1,235,000

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

Legislative Bond	\$750,000
Private Fundraising and Grants	\$235,000
Gentle Giants Draft Horse Rescue (cash reserve)	\$250,000
Total	\$1,235,000

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
8/01/2023	12/31/2024	May 2026	September 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
250000.00	N/A		1,732
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)	
Gentle Giants Draft Horse Rescue Society, Ltd. 17250 Old Frederick Rd. Mount Airy, Maryland 21771		661 W Watersville Road Mount Airy, Maryland 21771 (Contiguous to 17250 Old Frederick Road, Mount Airy, Maryland 21771)	
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located	9B - Howard 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:	Christine Hajek	Has An Appraisal Been Done?	Yes/No
Phone:	4432853835		No
Address:		If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value	
17250 Old Frederick Rd. Mt. Airy, Maryland 21771		N/A	

24. Impact of Project on Staffing and Operating Cost at Project Site			
Current # of Employees	Projected # of Employees	Current Operating Budget	Projected Operating Budget
42	48	8000000.00	9500000.00
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			
Space to be Renovated GSF			
New GSF	8,512 SF		

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

N/A

28. Comments

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration!