

State Of Maryland

2025 Bond Initiative Fact Sheet

1. Name Of Project		
Great Frederick Fair		
2. Senate Sponsor	3. House Sponsor	
Folden		
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)	5. Requested Amount	
Frederick County	\$500,000	
6. Purpose of Bond Initiative		
the acquisition, planning, design, construction, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping of The Great Frederick Fair facilities, including stage roof upgrade		
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
Karen Nicklas, General Manager		301-663-5895
10. Description and Purpose of Organization (Limit length to visible area)		
<p>Established in 1822, The Great Frederick Fair (501C-5) is a cornerstone event in Frederick County, Maryland, dedicated to promoting agriculture and educating youth about this vital industry. As the county's largest annual event, attracting approximately 220,000 visitors over nine days, the fair offers a platform for showcasing agricultural achievements and fostering community engagement. Beyond the annual fair, the organization provides year-round educational programs and facility rentals, reinforcing its commitment to agricultural education and community involvement.</p>		

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

The Great Frederick Fair, Inc. (GFF) seeks funding for a \$1.5 million stage roof upgrade to enhance performances, expand audience capacity, and generate revenue to support its mission of agricultural education. For 163 years, GFF has promoted agriculture through its annual nine-day fair, hosting 6,000+ exhibitors, 18,000 entries, and 5,000 student field trips. Partnering with Frederick County Public Schools, GFF provides agricultural curriculum to 18,000+ students. The improved stage will boost tourism, support local businesses, and enable year-round events, strengthening GFFs impact for future generations.

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	
Construction	\$1,580,000
Equipment	
Total	\$1,580,000

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

Legislative Bond Initiative Grant	\$500,000
Private Funding/Fundraising	\$1,080,000
Total	\$1,580,000

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
1/1/2025	2/24/2025	4/1/2025	9/26/2025
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	
0.00	24,000 Youth Specifically /	26,000 Youth/ 240,000	
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)	
The Great Frederick Fair, Inc. 797 East Patrick Street Frederick, MD 21701			
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located	3 - Frederick 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:	Karen Nicklas	Has An Appraisal Been Done?	Yes/No
Phone:	301-663-5895		No
Address:		If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value	
797 East Patrick Street Frederick, MD 21701			

24. Impact of Project on Staffing and Operating Cost at Project Site			
Current # of Employees	Projected # of Employees	Current Operating Budget	Projected Operating Budget
7	7	5000000.00	5000000.00
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			

27. Year of Construction of Any Structures Proposed for Renovation, Restoration or Conversion	
28. Comments	
<p>The Great Frederick Fair, Inc. (GFF) is seeking funding through the Legislative Bond Initiative Grant to support the construction of an upgraded stage roof at the Frederick Fairgrounds. This \$1.5 million project will enhance the Fairs ability to attract higher-caliber performers, increase audience capacity, and generate additional revenue ultimately reinforcing GFFs mission of promoting agriculture and youth education.</p> <p>For 163 years, GFF has been a cornerstone of Frederick Countys agricultural community, hosting an annual nine-day fair with over 6,000 exhibitors and 18,000 competitive entries. More than 400 youth exhibitors benefit from scholarship opportunities, educational workshops, and livestock sales, while nearly 18,000 students receive agriculture-based curriculum materials through a partnership with Frederick County Public Schools. Additionally, 5,000 elementary students attend the Fair as part of Frederick Countys largest agricultural classroom experience.</p> <p>The Fairs entertainment lineup including concerts, motorsports, and a midway carnival drives attendance and generates essential funding that directly supports its educational programs. Improving the stage infrastructure will allow GFF to expand its offerings, increase tourism and economic impact through hotel stays and local business patronage, and create new opportunities for year-round public events and rentals.</p> <p>Investing in this stage roof upgrade will ensure the Fairs continued success in educating future generations while contributing to the local economy. We respectfully request legislative support to help fund this vital project, strengthening both our agricultural mission and community engagement for years to come.</p>	