

# State Of Maryland

## 2025 Bond Initiative Fact Sheet

<b>1. Name Of Project</b>		
SpringForward Farms		
<b>2. Senate Sponsor</b>	<b>3. House Sponsor</b>	
Howard County Senators	Howard County Delegation	
<b>4. Jurisdiction</b> (County or Baltimore City)	<b>5. Requested Amount</b>	
Howard County	\$150,000	
<b>6. Purpose of Bond Initiative</b>		
the acquisition, planning, design, construction, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping of the SpringForward Farms		
<b>7. Matching Fund</b>		
Requirements:	Type:	
Grant		
<b>8. Special Provisions</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Historical Easement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Sectarian	
<b>9. Contact Name and Title</b>	<b>Contact Ph#</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
Piper Phillips Caswell		301/470-1620
<b>10. Description and Purpose of Organization</b> (Limit length to visible area)		
<p>SpringForward Farms, an employment social enterprise of SpringForward Ventures, works with working-age adults with behavioral health wellness needs in an urban agricultural business. These individuals need work settings that support their transition into the workforce and self-reliant adulthood. Alternative workforce development programs have not met their needs due to a narrow focus on transitional versus long term employment. As a result, these individuals face consistent challenges in finding fair wage jobs, maintaining employment and building wealth over the long term. Over the next 3-5 years we aim to achieve these outcomes for everyone employed by SpringForward incubated businesses utilizing our new approach, EVERY Employee, based on the practices of PHILLIPS Programs over 58 years.</p>		

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

Food is an essential element of life and we believe that we can help make our food system better for both our customers and our employees. You will find many statistics about the amount of food that is being wasted by being transported thousands of miles. We grow nutrient-dense and delicious greens that last longer and taste fresher than imported alternatives. Also, by training the next generation of growers, we are filling a need for essential workers with expertise in the growing indoor urban agricultural field. Once this social enterprise is well-established, it plans to convert to a cooperative business structure, giving employees the opportunity to join in ownership and governance. We want our employees to become agents in the success of their own business, leading to increased productivity and higher profitability. Our 2,000 square foot hydroponic microgreens farm will employ up to 8 un/under employed individuals.

*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**

<b>Acquisition</b>	\$0
<b>Design</b>	\$10,000
<b>Construction</b>	\$176,000
<b>Equipment</b>	\$158,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$344,000</b>

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

SpringForward Ventures	\$184,000
Donation - fundraising	\$10,000
LBI	\$150,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$344,000</b>

<b>14. Project Schedule (Enter a date or one of the following in each box. N/A, TBD or Complete)</b>			
<b>Begin Design</b>	<b>Complete Design</b>	<b>Begin Construction</b>	<b>Complete Construction</b>
	TBD	TBD	TBD
<b>15. Total Private Funds and Pledges Raised</b>	<b>16. Current Number of People Served Annually at Project Site</b>	<b>17. Number of People to be Served Annually After the Project is Complete</b>	
176000.00	0	8-16	
<b>18. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in the Past 15 Years</b>			
<b>Legislative Session</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	
<b>19. Legal Name and Address of Grantee</b>		<b>Project Address (If Different)</b>	
SpringForward Ventures 8920 Whiskey Bottom Rd Laurel, MD 20723		9090 Whiskey Bottom Rd Laurel, MD 20723	
<b>20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located</b>	13 - Howard County		
<b>21. Legal Status of Grantee (Please Check One)</b>			
<b>Local Govt.</b>	<b>For Profit</b>	<b>Non Profit</b>	<b>Federal</b>
[ ]	[ ]	[ X ]	[ ]
<b>22. Grantee Legal Representative</b>		<b>23. If Match Includes Real Property:</b>	
<b>Name:</b>	Piper Phillips Caswell	<b>Has An Appraisal Been Done?</b>	Yes/No
<b>Phone:</b>	301/470-1620		No
<b>Address:</b>		<b>If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value</b>	
8920 Whiskey Bottom Road Laurel, MD 20723			

<b>24. Impact of Project on Staffing and Operating Cost at Project Site</b>			
<b>Current # of Employees</b>	<b>Projected # of Employees</b>	<b>Current Operating Budget</b>	<b>Projected Operating Budget</b>
<b>25. Ownership of Property (Info Requested by Treasurer's Office for bond purposes)</b>			
<b>A. Will the grantee own or lease (pick one) the property to be improved?</b>			Lease
<b>B. If owned, does the grantee plan to sell within 15 years?</b>			
<b>C. Does the grantee intend to lease any portion of the property to others?</b>			No
<b>D. If property is owned by grantee any space is to be leased, provide the following:</b>			
<b>Lessee</b>	<b>Terms of Lease</b>	<b>Cost Covered by Lease</b>	<b>Square Footage Leased</b>
<b>E. If property is leased by grantee - Provide the following:</b>			
<b>Name of Leaser</b>	<b>Length of Lease</b>	<b>Options to Renew</b>	
Dreyers Grand Ice Cream, Inc., a division of	5 year	5 year	
<b>26. Building Square Footage:</b>			
<b>Current Space GSF</b>	3200		
<b>Space to be Renovated GSF</b>	3200		
<b>New GSF</b>	3200		

<b>27. Year of Construction of Any Structures Proposed for Renovation, Restoration or Conversion</b>	tbd
<b>28. Comments</b>	
<p>SpringForward is finalizing lease arrangements with Dreyer's. Dreyer's approached us with an interest in leasing unoccupied space, they had considerable empty square footage and no the requisite parking spaces. It was a perfect opportunity for us to establish the Farms project in Howard County after considering Baltimore City. It provides a community-based job site for students from the neighboring PHILLIPS School Laurel, internships and apprenticeships. It provides a pipeline for un/under employed young adults, and others, for stable employment in an emerging industry addressing local produce. We have established a relationship with Coastal Companies via PHILLIPS over the past few years and anticipate selling produce to them along with small businesses, farmer's markets etc. In addition to establishing a hydroponic farm in Howard County, most importantly this is a model showcasing an innovative workforce development project.</p> <p>SpringForward was awarded a federally directed spending fund through Senators Cardin and Van Hollen. Senator Van Hollen, a member of the Appropriations Committee, remarked, We are working to invest in the success of every Marylander, including through our support for job training and education initiatives and behavioral health programs. This direct federal investment will help SpringForward Ventures continue its vital work to help ensure all Marylanders have access to meaningful work opportunities and to propel their economic empowerment providing inclusive pathways for success.</p> <p>SpringForward Farms is an urban, Controlled Environment Agriculture farm in the Howard County area that utilizes the technology of high-tech indoor greenhouses to produce locally grown, cost-effective, nutrient-dense food, while simultaneously maintaining a commercially viable business model. To set our worker-owners up for success and to ensure training is accessible to all employees, workers will be onboarded using a variety of teaching methods and proprietary materials for its incubated social enterprise business. By designing training and instructional materials for individuals with behavioral health wellness needs and others facing barriers to employment, we can reduce barriers to the workforce by creating a more inclusive employment environment. SpringForward Ventures will provide quality employment opportunities and contribute to community wealth building in Maryland, at a time when the state is still struggling to recover jobs post-pandemic. According to the Maryland Department of Labors Overview of Current Economic Conditions in Maryland (January 2024), the state's private-sector growth rate ranked 47th between February 2020 and November 2023. SpringForward Farms has the potential to change the nature of Marylands labor force, and in time, Americas workforce.</p>	