

# State Of Maryland

## 2026 Bond Initiative Fact Sheet

<b>1. Name Of Project</b>		
A Slice In The Park		
<b>2. Senate Sponsor</b>	<b>3. House Sponsor</b>	
Attar	Rosenberg	
<b>4. Jurisdiction</b> (County or Baltimore City)	<b>5. Requested Amount</b>	
Baltimore City	\$200,000	
<b>6. Purpose of Bond Initiative</b>		
the acquisition, planning, design, construction, expansion, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping of A Slice In The Park: a Culinary Apprenticeship program for the Park Heights community		
<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>
Steven T. Johnson		443-254-0915
<b>10. Description and Purpose of Organization</b> (Limit length to visible area)		
<p>We envision a Baltimore where all young people and families have equitable access to opportunity, safe and vibrant public spaces, and clear pathways to education, workforce readiness, and economic stability. Love In The Park Inc. advances this vision by transforming community spaces in Park Heights into hubs for learning, culture, wellness, and workforce development. We provide youth-centered programming, culinary and hospitality pre-apprenticeship pathways, and community-driven events that equip residents especially those facing barriers to employment with industry certifications, technical skills, conflict resolution training, and the confidence needed to thrive, building pathways to dignity, purpose, and long-term economic mobility.</p>		



<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>
4/24/2026	6/30/2026	7/15/2026)	Late December 2026/
<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>
10000.00		0	1200
<b>18. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in the Past 15 Years</b>			
<b>Legislative Session</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	
N/A	\$0	N/A	
<b>19. Legal Name and Address of Grantee</b>		<b>Project Address (If Different)</b>	
Steven Johnson 5222 Park Heights Ave Baltimore, Maryland 21215		Steven Johnson 5222 Park Heights Ave Baltimore, Maryland 21215	
<b>20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located</b>	41 - Baltimore City		
<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>		<b>Has An Appraisal Been Done?</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>
<b>Phone:</b>			No
<b>Address:</b>		<b>If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value</b>	

<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>
2	25	25000.00	350000.00
<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>			No
<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>
N/A			
<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>	
Vohn Thomas	5	Yes, option and lease and	
<b>26. Building Square Footage:</b>			
<b>Current Space GSF</b>	3,000		
<b>Space to be Renovated GSF</b>	3,000		
<b>New GSF</b>	3,000		

<b>27. Year of Construction of Any Structures Proposed for Renovation, Restoration or Conversion</b>	2026
<b>28. Comments</b>	
<p>This project represents a permanent capital investment in Park Heights that aligns directly with the State of Maryland's priorities around workforce development, public safety, economic mobility, and community revitalization. The full build-out of 5222 Park Heights Avenue will establish a community-anchored culinary and hospitality workforce training facility integrated with a fresh foods and restaurant concept operated by A Slice In The Park LLC, powered by Love In The Park Inc.</p> <p>Bond funding would support the rehabilitation and activation of an underutilized commercial property into a durable public-serving asset that increases healthy food access, expands workforce pathways for youth and returning citizens, and strengthens the Park Heights corridor. This is not a temporary programmatic investment; it is a brick-and-mortar infrastructure project that will serve generations of residents and contribute to long-term neighborhood stabilization.</p> <p>Park Heights has experienced historic disinvestment, limited access to healthy food options, and high youth unemployment. By embedding a workforce training facility directly within the community, this project reduces transportation barriers, increases access to credentialed training, and creates direct pathways into Baltimore's hospitality and food economy. The integrated model training classrooms paired with a functioning food enterprise ensures that participants receive both instruction and real-world application, increasing job placement and retention outcomes.</p> <p>Legislative bond support would leverage local hiring and minority contractor participation, with a strong commitment to sourcing labor from within Park Heights and surrounding communities. This ensures that state capital dollars circulate locally, strengthen neighborhood wealth-building, and generate immediate economic impact during construction and long-term impact through sustained operations.</p> <p>This investment also advances public safety objectives. Stable employment pathways are strongly correlated with reduced recidivism and improved neighborhood stability. By serving youth ages 16-24 and justice-impacted adults, the project functions as both a workforce initiative and a violence prevention strategy grounded in economic opportunity.</p> <p>The requested bond funding would position this facility as a flagship example of how capital investment can support workforce development, healthy food access, and corridor revitalization simultaneously. The project is shovel-ready, community-rooted, and designed for long-term sustainability through earned revenue and strategic partnerships.</p> <p>Inclusion in Maryland's capital budget would signal the State's commitment to equitable revitalization in Park Heights and ensure that this transformative neighborhood asset becomes a lasting part of the community's infrastructure.</p>	