

# State Of Maryland

## 2026 Bond Initiative Fact Sheet

<b>1. Name Of Project</b>		
Agriculture Cultural Center at West Friendship Park		
<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	\$500,000	
<b>6. Purpose of Bond Initiative</b>		
the acquisition, planning, design, construction, expansion, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping of an Agriculture Cultural Center at West Friendship Park		
<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>
Tae Jung		410-313-1104
Howard County Senators		hoc1@mlis.state.md.us
<b>10. Description and Purpose of Organization</b> (Limit length to visible area)		
<p>The Department of General Services (DGS) of Howard County Government is responsible for the planning, design, construction, and maintenance of County-owned public facilities. DGS ensures that public buildings are safe, functional, and sustainable, supporting essential services for Howard County residents. The Departments mission is to enhance public infrastructure through strategic planning, efficient project delivery, and long-term asset management. In support of Howard County's commitment to accessibility, safety, and sustainability, DGS oversees improvements to public facilities that respond to community needs and evolving standards. The requested Legislative Bond Initiative (LBI) grant will support critical facility enhancements, promoting equitable access and ensuring the long-term viability of County public assets.</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>
8/20/2025	1/12/2027	11/26/2026	4/11/2028
<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>	
0.00	0	80000	
<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>	
Department of General Services Howard County Government 9200 Berger Road Columbia, MD 21046		12985 Frederick Rd. West Friendship, MD 21794	
<b>20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located</b>	9A - Howard and Montgomery Counties		
<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>	Gary Kuc, County Solicitor	<b>Has An Appraisal Been Done?</b>	Yes/No
<b>Phone:</b>	410.313.2100		No
<b>Address:</b>		<b>If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value</b>	
Howard County Office of Law 3430 Court House Drive Ellicott City, MD 21043			

<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>
0	30	0.00	400000.00
<b>25. Ownership of Property</b> (Info Requested by Treasurer's Office for bond purposes)			
<b>A. Will the grantee own or lease (pick one) the property to be improved?</b>			Own
<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>
<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>	
<b>26. Building Square Footage:</b>			
<b>Current Space GSF</b>	0		
<b>Space to be Renovated GSF</b>	18,200		
<b>New GSF</b>	18,200		

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

2026

**28. Comments**

The Agriculture Cultural Center is envisioned as a 18,200 gross square foot facility that will serve as a hub for community engagement, education, research, and agricultural innovation. Designed to integrate indoor learning spaces with outdoor demonstration areas, the center will strengthen the connection between people, food, and the environment while promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

The facility will include a welcoming lobby and exhibition area that highlights the region's agricultural heritage, a multipurpose hall for community gatherings and events, a cafe and flexible meeting rooms. Educational programming will be supported through classrooms, a demonstration kitchen and a laboratory, all designed to foster hands-on learning opportunities for students, residents, and visitors.

To advance research and innovation, the center will house an incubator room, and cold storage facilities, supporting projects that preserve biodiversity and promote sustainable food systems. Administrative offices and support areas will ensure efficient operation of the center, while robust mechanical and storage systems will provide long-term reliability.

The site design expands the educational mission outdoors with demonstration farm plots and community gardens, creating opportunities for active participation and applied research. Parking with electric vehicle charging will enhance accessibility and align with sustainable transportation goals.

Overall, the Agriculture Cultural Center will become a vital community resource, blending culture, science, and education to support agricultural innovation and long-term food resilience.