

State Of Maryland

2026 Bond Initiative Fact Sheet

1. Name Of Project		
Big Purple Barn		
2. Senate Sponsor	3. House Sponsor	
	Harrison	
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)	5. Requested Amount	
Prince George's County	\$100,000	
6. Purpose of Bond Initiative		
the acquisition, planning, design, construction, expansion, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping of The Big Purple Barn facilities		
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
Tara Wahle		240-687-6995
10. Description and Purpose of Organization (Limit length to visible area)		
<p>The Big Purple Barn was established in Bowie in 2001, as a nonprofit sanctuary for horses and small farm animals (sheep, goats, pigs). It provides a place for the community to experience and learn about farm animal care and urban agriculture through hands-on opportunities, serving as a community resource and partner. Our mission includes: 1. Provide quality, life-long comfort and care for unwanted, neglected, and special needs horses/ponies and other small farm animals. 2. Develop and offer education and outreach programs using resident animals to provide enriching and life-changing opportunities for people of underserved populations, who might not otherwise experience the healing and transformative power of animals. 3. Create a safe, supportive, educational environment for humans and animals alike and connect with our community.</p>		

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

Purchase and install a structural grade vinyl roof covering and enclosure, 60 feet in diameter, to be located off the main entrance, as part of the welcome center. The structure is modular and can be expanded as well as disassembled and moved. The purpose of this covered space is to create an all-season, weather-protected area to enhance and expand education and outreach programs. This will allow the sanctuary to: 1. Host events, classes, and activities year-round, thereby expanding community access. 2. Provide additional safe and accessible opportunities for participants with special needs and limited mobility. 3. Create a central, welcoming focal point adjacent to the welcome center for the community to gather.

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	\$85,000
Design	\$5,000
Construction	\$25,000
Equipment	\$0
Total	\$115,000

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

Bond Initiative Grant	\$100,000
Arthurn Korn Charitable Giving Trust	\$10,000
Supporter Pledges	\$5,000
Total	\$115,000

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
complete	complete	TBD	TBD
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
15000.00	3,000		6,000
18. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in the Past 15 Years			
Legislative Session	Amount	Purpose	
NA	\$0	NA	
19. Legal Name and Address of Grantee		Project Address (If Different)	
The Big Purple Barn, Inc 6407 Hillmeade Road Bowie, MD 20720		Same	
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located	24 - Prince George's 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:	Tara Wahle	Has An Appraisal Been Done?	Yes/No
Phone:	3016743155		No
Address:		If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value	

24. Impact of Project on Staffing and Operating Cost at Project Site			
Current # of Employees	Projected # of Employees	Current Operating Budget	Projected Operating Budget
volunteer based	0	75000.00	95000.00
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?			Lease
B. If owned, does the grantee plan to sell within 15 years?			
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	
Philip J and Barbara J Wahle	15 years	Yes	
26. Building Square Footage:			
Current Space GSF	NA		
Space to be Renovated GSF	NA		
New GSF	NA		

27. Year of Construction of Any Structures Proposed for Renovation, Restoration or Conversion	NA
28. Comments	
<p>The Big Purple Barn was founded in 2001 in Bowie, Prince Georges County, Maryland. The facility was built from the ground up on the Katherine Richards Bungalow property, a home listed in the county register of historically significant architecture and adjacent to the WB&A Trail in Bowie, a historic community built on thoroughbred racehorses, a town known for horses, and with deep historical significance for equestrians. Part of our mission is to preserve and use this historic parcel of land appropriately and protect it from development that has transformed much of the community.</p> <p>The co-founder and current executive director, Tara Wahle, is a lifelong resident of Prince Georges County with a passion for the community and for animals of all kinds, and for connecting the two. Our organization has grown within our community, with input from our community members. In an era of increasing urbanization, we seek to continue providing accessible introductions to agricultural experiences. We are currently volunteer-staffed, but our five-year plan, supported by this new dedicated space, includes hiring paid staff, growing our operating budget, and doubling the number of people we can serve in the community. Many of the programs we offer are free or low-cost to make them as accessible as possible. Our community has invested in our success for 25 years.</p> <p>As the sanctuary celebrates its 25th year in Bowie, we envision creating a covered space that will enhance our education and outreach programs. The structure we have chosen is environmentally sustainable, with the modular capability to add/replace components as needed over time and to completely dismantle it for relocation. It will add over 11,000 square feet of multi-use space for our programs, which are currently held outdoors.</p> <p>In 2014, we became the first certified Maryland Horse Discovery Center in PG County, and we continually strive to expand access to our programs. This dedicated space is the next step in our growth. This new space represents our ongoing growth and dedication, allowing us to collaborate more effectively with schools, community groups, and neighbors to provide improved and expanded educational opportunities, including our work to educate and empower the next generation of animal and land advocates. We have been a vocal part of the Maryland Horse Industry Board's statewide initiative to build entry-level gateways into one of the most important agricultural industries in the state, the equine industry. We strive to partner with other organizations and businesses within the county to create a more stable and vibrant community. Our co-founder has dedicated her life to creating a safe and supportive space that she could not find as a child and to keeping it in Prince Georges County.</p>	