

State Of Maryland

2026 Bond Initiative Fact Sheet

1. Name Of Project		
Community FarmShare - Local Food Aggregation and Distribution Expansion		
2. Senate Sponsor	3. House Sponsor	
Feldman	Fraser-Hidalgo	
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)	5. Requested Amount	
Montgomery County	\$75,000	
6. Purpose of Bond Initiative		
the acquisition, planning, design, construction, expansion, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping of the Community FarmShare - Local Food Aggregation and Distribution Expansion		
7. Matching Fund		
Requirements: Grant	Type:	
8. Special Provisions		
<input type="checkbox"/> Historical Easement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Sectarian	
9. Contact Name and Title	Contact Ph#	Email Address
Jennifer Freeman		301-377-4267
10. Description and Purpose of Organization (Limit length to visible area)		
Community FarmShare (CFS) works to build a connected, thriving, local food system through programs that both increase nutrition access and build farmer capacity to increase climate-friendly local produce production. The purpose of the organization is to support healthy communities and strengthen the local food system. CFS does this by expanding its scalable market driven model to bring nutrient dense local fresh produce to communities lacking access to healthy foods. By purchasing local produce at fair price rates, CFS creates new and sustainable sales channels for small scale local farmers to reliably increase production to meet demand. CFS envisions healthy communities nourished by local farms through grassroots work with a "systems view" approach.		

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

CFS seeks to expand its local food procurement, aggregation and distribution work in Montgomery County, by purchasing a refrigerated truck. As the largest local produce aggregator in the county, CFS is focused on nutrition security through Farm to School and Food Is Medicine programs, purchasing over 10,000 lb produce/week. The project would more than double wholesale operations serving a crucial role to facilitate grant funding through county efforts, which intend food pantries to purchase local produce for food assistance. Further, CFS brings in private, state and federal funding in partnerships with community health clinics, universities and School Based Health Centers, generating greater local food demand. By doubling our distribution capacity through direct to consumer farm markets in healthy food priority areas as well as wholesale operations, this capital investment has a multiplier effect to spur greater local food production through contract purchasing.

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	
Equipment	\$152,000
Total	\$152,000

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

The Morningstar Foundation	\$77,000
Legislative Bond Initiative	\$75,000
Total	\$152,000

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
N/A	N/A	N/A	7/1/2026
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
77000.00		22,500	32,500
18. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in the Past 15 Years			
Legislative Session	Amount	Purpose	
N/A			
19. Legal Name and Address of Grantee		Project Address (If Different)	
Community FarmShare LLC 14975 Sugarland Rd. Poolesville, MD 20837			
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located		15 - Montgomery 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:	Jennifer Freeman	Has An Appraisal Been Done?	Yes/No
Phone:	3013774267		No
Address:		If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value	
14975 Sugarland Rd. Poolesville, MD 20837			

24. Impact of Project on Staffing and Operating Cost at Project Site			
Current # of Employees	Projected # of Employees	Current Operating Budget	Projected Operating Budget
2	10	1027000.00	1450000.00
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
N/A			
E. If property is leased by grantee - Provide the following:			
Name of Leaser	Length of Lease	Options to Renew	
N/A			
26. Building Square Footage:			
Current Space GSF	N/A		
Space to be Renovated GSF	N/A		
New GSF	N/A		

27. Year of Construction of Any Structures Proposed for Renovation, Restoration or Conversion**28. Comments**

Expanding local food production is now at a critical crossroads of opportunity. State and local governments understand the critical need to strengthen local food systems and support people to become and stay healthy. Health and Human Services, Dept. of Agriculture, Dept of Education and Dept. of the Environment are all working to advance policy and funding opportunities to make substantive advances in these areas of food systems and healthy food access.

Community FarmShare embodies this shared mission, as demonstrated by our growth in 5 years from purchasing 500 pounds of produce for 50 families each week to now purchasing ~10,000 pounds from over 20 local small scale farms per week and serving over 1,000 residents each week. With an expertise in Food Is Medicine programs and trusted partnerships with community health clinics, universities and Montgomery County Public Schools, Community FarmShare is at the forefront of linking locally grown produce with nonprofit and institutional programs and partners that prioritize health, food equity, local farm economic sustainability, and climate change mitigation.

CFS has a strong track record for managing growth, tripling the size of our aggregation facility last year and doubling walk in cold storage space. Adding a second, larger, refrigerated truck is the next critically needed capital investment to meet the existing and expected future demand for local fresh produce. The truck will enable Community FarmShare to support local farms by picking up produce, delivering produce to buyers and serve as a market truck at our mobile farm markets at schools and clinics in healthy food priority areas. Through vouchers and SNAP sales with MD Market Money match, CFS expects to reach at least ~1,500 households per week with free or subsidized fresh produce sourced from 20 local farms growing nutrient dense produce right up the road.

In budget challenged years, investments with immediate multiplier effects are necessary. This 17ft refrigerated truck directly supports 20 farms to increase production and increase employment both at Community FarmShare and at farm partners.

In times where the economic gap is widening daily with lower income families facing increased challenges, while nonprofit and social services sectors try to support residents with fewer resources, CFS's focus on particularly healthy food access carries a multitude of additional benefits, including lower health care costs, better attendance and attention at school and reduced mental health stress associated with chronic food insecurity.