

State Of Maryland

2026 Bond Initiative Fact Sheet

1. Name Of Project		
Fidos for Freedom		
2. Senate Sponsor	3. House Sponsor	
	Lehman	
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)	5. Requested Amount	
Prince George's County	\$600,000	
6. Purpose of Bond Initiative		
the acquisition, planning, design, construction, expansion, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping of the Fidos for Freedom property, including parking lot repaving and upgrades		
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
Diane Bernier		301-490-4005
10. Description and Purpose of Organization (Limit length to visible area)		
Our mission is to enhance the quality of life for people in MD communities by providing specially trained hearing, service, and combat-related PTSD dogs, and therapy dogs. Fidos also educates the public about individuals with disabilities and about the benefits of service and therapy dogs and the work that these specially trained dogs do for individuals with disabilities, children with reading difficulties, and patients in health care facilities. Our vision is to increase the quality of life and provide companionship to the residents of our local community through specially trained service, hearing and therapy dogs. For FY 2025-FY2026 Fidos has 30 service dog teams. Each team consists of a client with a disability and a highly trained service dog that is trained specially for that individuals needs.		

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

Fidos For Freedom purchased the building in the 1950s. The parking lot that services the building is in complete disrepair. In various locations of the lot there are considerable potholes, large cracks, chunks of asphalt that have become dislodged and scattered around the parking lot, creating unsafe hazards for our clients. The parking lot in its current condition does not meet ADA accessibility standards. The project will allow Fidos to resurface the entire parking lot facility and allow for proper disability and wheelchair access to our building. A new parking lot will ensure the safety and welfare of our clients, volunteers and staff and allow Fidos to continue its mission of helping Marylanders in need.

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	\$600,000
Equipment	
Total	\$600,000

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

This Bond Initiative	\$600,000
Total	\$600,000

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	completed	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
0.00		185	200
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)	
Fidos For Freedom, Inc. 1200 Sandy Spring Road Laurel, MD 20707			
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located		21 - Prince George's and Anne Arundel Counties	
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:	n/a	Has An Appraisal Been Done?	Yes/No
Phone:			
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
5	5	433771.00	433771.00
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?			Yes
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
Pis Deli	Lease ends 11/30/33	Total lease	2,122sf
Ride For The Fallen (veteran non-profit)	Lease ends 11/30/33	Total lease	3279sf
Laurel Cats (non-profit)	Lease ends 11/30/33	Total lease	725sf
SpaMania	Lease ends 11/30/33	Total lease	231sf
Bangudi Law	Lease ends 7/31/26	Total lease	220sf
3 other small offices are leased (Spaced Out)	Lease ends 7/31/26	Total lease	580sf
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	24,909 sf		
Space to be Renovated GSF	3968 SY		
New GSF			

27. Year of Construction of Any Structures Proposed for Renovation, Restoration or Conversion	1950's
28. Comments	
The work for this Bond is the outside parking lots (3968 SY) and not the physical building.	
<p>Fidos therapy dogs improve emotional, psychological, and social well-being, while providing joy to Marylanders. Fidos therapy dog program is comprised of 125 volunteer therapy dog handlers and its 80 therapy dogs who visit local health care facilities, first responders, schools, nursing homes, special events, and organizations to bring unconditional love to patients, clients, staff, visitors, and residents. In 2024, Fidos conducted 497 unique therapy visits.</p> <p>Fidos For Freedom is seeking bond funding to repave the buildings parking lots, making them safe, durable, and ADA-compliant. The community-focused building owned by Fidos houses a deli, a veteran service organization, a cat rescue, and small office tenants. The building is also utilized for community meetings, trainings, and social gatherings.</p> <p>Our motto is The Heart of Fidos Changes Lives! and we strive and succeed at improving the welfare of our disabled clients: persons with hearing impairment, mobility challenges and veterans with combat related PTSD. For FY 2025-FY2026 Fidos has 30 service dog teams. Each team consists of a client with a disability and a highly trained service dog that is trained specially for that individuals needs. Fidos therapy dog program is comprised of 125 volunteer therapy dog handlers and its 80 therapy dogs who visit local health care facilities, first responders, schools, nursing homes, special events, and organizations to bring unconditional love to patients, clients, staff, visitors, and residents. Both Fidos therapy and service dog teams as well as our junior program meet several times a week at our building. Meeting and training also take place in the evenings and especially with Day Light Savings time the parking lot has become more treacherous for our students, clients, staff and volunteers.</p> <p>If the parking lot is not fixed and continues to be a hindrance to our clients attending the necessary trainings clients like Denise with suffer. Denise is a Fidos client, who faces challenges with both hearing and mobility; has had two different service dogs through Fidos. The following are her words: In my thinking, there was life before Fidos and life after Fidos. The change in my independence, thinking, and behavior was so significant, it is clear that Fidos changed the direction of my life. Life before Fidos was an unhealthy dependence on family, never going anywhere alone. I did not have short-term or long-term goals. In life after Fidos I sprouted wings, and I have been flying ever since! I earned a masters degree with my first service dog, Chloe, and my Ph.D. with my current service dog, Milo. Im now teaching psychology at community college. These are things I would have never had the courage nor motivation to pursue before Fidos.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>	