

State Of Maryland

2026 Bond Initiative Fact Sheet

1. Name Of Project		
Freedom Hills Therapeutic Riding Program - Indoor Riding Arena		
2. Senate Sponsor	3. House Sponsor	
	Cecil County Delegation	
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)	5. Requested Amount	
Cecil County	\$250,000	
6. Purpose of Bond Initiative		
the acquisition, planning, design, construction, expansion, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping of the Freedom Hills Therapeutic Riding Program Indoor Riding Arena		
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
Renee S. Dixon		410-378-3817
10. Description and Purpose of Organization (Limit length to visible area)		
<p>Freedom Hills Therapeutic Riding Program is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to enriching the lives of individuals with disabilities through the healing partnership between horse and human. Our mission is to provide Equine-Facilitated Therapy that strengthens the mind, body, and spirit. Since 1982, we have opened our barn doors to anyone facing physical, emotional, or cognitive challenges including but not limited to Military Veterans, First Responders and "Kids at Risk". As a volunteer-driven organization, our work is made possible through the generosity of donors, sponsors, and community support. Freedom Hills proudly holds recognition as a PATH Premier Accredited Center, a Maryland Horse Discovery Center, and a Maryland Certified Program for Farm-Based Education.</p>		

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

The purpose of this project is to expand our indoor riding arena and add an attached classroom so we can safely serve more participants, strengthen therapeutic programming, support yearround community use and fundraising. Our current 70' x 100' arena limits us to one lesson at a time; extending it to 70' x 220' will allow two simultaneous lessons with safe space for riders, volunteers, and horses and accommodating higherneed participants. The new accessible classroom, directly connected to the arena, will support our Kids at Risk, physical and mental health, Military Veterans, and First Responders programs with space for briefings, group sessions, lifeskills instruction, and family meetings. The larger arena will also enable winter horse shows, clinics, and events that generate vital revenue and increase community awareness, ensuring more Maryland residents can access highimpact therapeutic equine services.

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	\$0
Design	\$50,000
Construction	\$350,000
Equipment	\$100,000
Total	\$500,000

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

State of MD Bond Initiative Grant	\$250,000
Oluv Joyner Foundation	\$25,000
ODEC	\$15,000
Choptank	\$15,000
AUI	\$15,000
Charles and Joan Hermanowski Family Foundation	\$20,000
The Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation	\$20,000
Chichester Foudation	\$50,000
Stewart and Tate	\$30,000
Donaldson Brown Foundation	\$60,000
Total	\$500,000

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
8/1/2026	8/31/2026	10/1/2026	3/31/2027
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
100000.00	900		1,200
18. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in the Past 15 Years			
Legislative Session	Amount	Purpose	
0	\$0	0	
19. Legal Name and Address of Grantee		Project Address (If Different)	
Freedom Hills Therapeutic Riding Program 33 Rolling Hills Ranch Port Deposit, MD 21904			
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located	35B - Cecil 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:	Renee S Dixon	Has An Appraisal Been Done?	Yes/No
Phone:	4433507857		No
Address:		If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value	
33 Rolling Hills Ranch Lane Port Deposit, MD 21904			

24. Impact of Project on Staffing and Operating Cost at Project Site			
Current # of Employees	Projected # of Employees	Current Operating Budget	Projected Operating Budget
6	9	190000.00	250000.00
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	
Rolling Hills Ranch LLC	50 years	Yes	
26. Building Square Footage:			
Current Space GSF	7,000		
Space to be Renovated GSF	7,000		
New GSF	15,400		

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

2007

28. Comments

The grants we receive will be both donations and In Kind.