

State Of Maryland

2026 Bond Initiative Fact Sheet

1. Name Of Project		
Gateway Maryland Therapeutic Playground		
2. Senate Sponsor	3. House Sponsor	
Attar	Rosenberg	
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)	5. Requested Amount	
Baltimore City	\$500,000	
6. Purpose of Bond Initiative		
the acquisition, planning, design, construction, expansion, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping of a Therapeutic Playground		
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
Erin Lamb		410-318-6780
10. Description and Purpose of Organization (Limit length to visible area)		
<p>At some point in every life, the ability to communicate becomes a personal challenge, whether through circumstances we face ourselves or those experienced by loved ones. Gateway has stood as Maryland's leading nonprofit (501c3) resource for language and communication for a century, evolving its nonprofit mission to serve the community's changing needs with compassion and expertise. Since 1926, Gateway has expanded its reach to serve over 8,000 children, adults, and community partners each year on our Baltimore campus and throughout every county in Maryland. Gateway ensures that expert care remains accessible for all as we activate our mission to give hope, change lives, and build connections for Marylanders through our special education, speech therapy, audiology, and sign language programming.</p>		

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

By supporting the construction and renovation of a therapeutic playground we are taking a vital step toward a healthier, more inclusive future for all our students. The benefits of this investment will ripple outwards supporting students, families, clients staff, and the community for years to come in the areas of: Sensory Integration and Emotional Regulation, Enhancing Social Skills and Emotional Health, Supporting Physical Health and Wellbeing, and being a nexus of health and learning for children and youth with autism, developmental disabilities, communication, and hearing disorders. Traditional playgrounds and gymnasiums simply do not meet their needs. The current Gateway playground was not designed with Universal Design Learning (UDL) principles in mind, resulting in barriers that prevents our students from fully engaging in physical education and outdoor play.

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	\$115,000
Construction	\$375,000
Equipment	\$285,000
Total	\$775,000

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

Legislative Bond	\$500,000
Program Service Revenue	\$200,000
Board Pledges/donations	\$50,000
Private Foundations	\$25,000
Total	\$775,000

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
7/1/2026	12/1/2026	1/1/2027	6/30/2027
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	
250000.00	500	550	
18. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in the Past 15 Years			
Legislative Session	Amount	Purpose	
2024	\$399,618	Update flooring in a 20+ year old building for the heal	
19. Legal Name and Address of Grantee		Project Address (If Different)	
Gateway Maryland 5900 Metro Drive Baltimore Maryland 21215			
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located	41 - Baltimore City		
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:	Erin Lamb, PhD	Has An Appraisal Been Done?	Yes/No
Phone:	410-318-6780		
Address:		If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value	
5900 Metro Drive Baltimore Maryland 21215			

24. Impact of Project on Staffing and Operating Cost at Project Site			
Current # of Employees	Projected # of Employees	Current Operating Budget	Projected Operating Budget
130	140	11800000.00	12100000.00
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
E. If property is leased by grantee - Provide the following:			
Name of Leaser	Length of Lease	Options to Renew	
26. Building Square Footage:			
Current Space GSF	47,000		
Space to be Renovated GSF	exterior		
New GSF			

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

2002

28. Comments

Since our original playground was constructed in 2002, the needs of the students we serve have grown significantly more complex and intensive, reflecting both changes in our student population and advances in best practices for therapeutic and inclusive play. As early as 2009, the organization began actively exploring funding options to replace and reimagine this space; however, the scale of investment required for a truly safe, therapeutic playground has proven difficult to secure through private philanthropy alone. Many individual donors and family foundations have expressed interest but are reluctant to commit without the presence of a lead or anchor gift, a common challenge for large capital projects of this nature.

Over the years, we have successfully partnered with numerous local foundations to support critical capital improvements that enhance the safety, security, and internal functioning of our building. These investments that were both necessary and impactful for our students and staff. As a result, and given the magnitude of this project, we must now turn to public and government funding sources to realize this essential investment. As we celebrate our 100th anniversary (a rare and meaningful milestone for any nonprofit) this playground represents a long deferred response to evolving student needs, and a singular opportunity to honor a century of service by ensuring our students have the safe, therapeutic outdoor environment they deserve.

In addition, we are preparing to expand its academic program to include a high school offering, (following the successful addition of a middle school program in 2021). The growth of both middle and high school services reflects our response to the evolving needs of the students we serve, who require developmentally appropriate, therapeutic environments as they age. These program expansions further underscore the need for improved recreation and outdoor therapeutic spaces that can safely support adolescents and young adults, accommodate more intensive regulation and movement needs, and integrate meaningfully into the school day. An updated playground is therefore not only a facilities improvement, but a critical component of sustaining and strengthening our expanded continuum of services.

Thank you for considering this request and the needs of the students we serve. While this form does not allow for the inclusion of photographs, we recognize that pictures are often worth a thousand words and would be happy to share visual materials, plans, or additional collateral upon request. We would also welcome the opportunity to host a site visit or tour, which we believe offers the clearest understanding of both the current limitations of our outdoor space and the transformative impact this project would have on our students and community.