

State Of Maryland

2026 Bond Initiative Fact Sheet

1. Name Of Project		
Great Frederick Fair		
2. Senate Sponsor	3. House Sponsor	
Folden	Pippy	
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)	5. Requested Amount	
Frederick County	\$500,000	
6. Purpose of Bond Initiative		
the acquisition, planning, design, construction, expansion, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping of The Great Frederick Fair, including the construction of a permanent stage roof		
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
Karen Nicklas		301-663-5895
10. Description and Purpose of Organization (Limit length to visible area)		
<p>The Great Frederick Fair, Inc. (GFF) is a nonprofit 501C5 agricultural organization dedicated to promoting ag and educating youth and the public about the ag industry. Through its annual nine-day Fair and year-round programming, GFF highlights local farming, livestock production, agribusiness, and agricultural innovation. Each year, the Fair hosts more than 6,000 exhibitors, 18,000 competitive entries, and 5,000 student field trips. Youth education is a core focus of GFF through support of 4-H, FFA, and independent youth exhibitors; youth livestock sales, scholarships, and leadership opportunities; and partnerships with FCPS that provide agricultural curriculum to more than 18,000 students annually. GFF operates and maintains a 60-acre fairgrounds that serves as a year-round community resource supporting tourism, local businesses, and economic activity.</p>		

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

The Great Frederick Fair seeks funding to construct a permanent stage roof at the Frederick Fairgrounds to improve public safety, expand programming capacity, and strengthen economic and educational impact. The improved stage will allow the Fair to safely host larger audiences, attract higher-quality entertainment, and expand non-fair programming, generating additional revenue to support ag education initiatives, including youth livestock programs, scholarships, and partnerships with FCPS that provide hands-on learning for thousands of students annually. The project will also support local businesses by increasing visitation and year-round use of the fairgrounds. The project includes planning, design, construction, and capital equipping of a permanent roof structure over the main stage, including installation, electrical and lighting accommodations, safety upgrades, and related site improvements to enhance weather resilience and operational efficiency.

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	\$65,000
Construction	\$582,000
Equipment	\$83,000
Total	\$730,000

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

Legislative Bond Initiative Grant 2026	\$500,000
Legislative Bond Initiative Grant 2025	\$130,000
Private Funding/Fundraising	\$100,000
Total	\$730,000

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
1/1/2026	2/1/2026	6/1/2026	8/1/2026
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	
0.00	24,000 Youth Specifically /	26,000 Youth/ 240,000	
18. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in the Past 15 Years			
Legislative Session	Amount	Purpose	
2025	\$130,000	The Great Frederick Fair Stage Update	
19. Legal Name and Address of Grantee		Project Address (If Different)	
The Great Frederick Fair, Inc. 797 East Patrick Street Frederick, MD 21701			
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located	3 - Frederick 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:	Karen Crum Nicklas	Has An Appraisal Been Done?	Yes/No
Phone:	301-663-5895		No
Address:		If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value	
797 East Patrick Street Frederick, MD 21701			

24. Impact of Project on Staffing and Operating Cost at Project Site				
Current # of Employees	Projected # of Employees	Current Operating Budget	Projected Operating Budget	
7	7	500000.00	500000.00	
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				
Space to be Renovated GSF				
New GSF				

27. Year of Construction of Any Structures Proposed for Renovation, Restoration or Conversion	
28. Comments	
<p>The Great Frederick Fair is a vital agricultural, educational, and economic asset for Frederick County and the State of Maryland. This stage roof upgrade is more than a facility improvement, it is an investment in youth education, agriculture, tourism, and long-term sustainability. A permanent roof will allow the Fair to safely expand programming, attract higher-quality entertainment, and increase year-round use of the fairgrounds, generating revenue that directly supports agricultural education, youth livestock programs, scholarships, and hands-on learning experiences for thousands of students.</p> <p>The Fair serves as one of the countys largest agricultural classrooms, connecting residents of all ages to farming, food systems, and Marylands agricultural heritage while driving significant economic activity for local businesses. Legislative support for this project will strengthen a trusted community institution, enhance its ability to serve the public, and ensure its continued impact for future generations.</p>	