

State Of Maryland

2026 Bond Initiative Fact Sheet

1. Name Of Project		
Hard Bargain Farm Environmental Campus		
2. Senate Sponsor	3. House Sponsor	
	Valderrama	
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)	5. Requested Amount	
Prince George's County	\$300,000	
6. Purpose of Bond Initiative		
the acquisition, planning, design, construction, expansion, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping of the Hard Bargain Farm Environmental Campus		
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
Theresa Cullen		240-988-8476
10. Description and Purpose of Organization (Limit length to visible area)		
<p>The Alice Ferguson Foundation (AFF) is a nonprofit environmental education organization founded in 1954 and located in Accokeek, Maryland. AFF is a Maryland State Aided Institution that provides hands-on environmental education programs for students across the state. Through day and overnight field studies, AFF partners with public school districts in Prince Georges, Montgomery, Allegany, Washington, Frederick, Charles, and St. Marys Counties, serving more than 7,000 Maryland students, teachers, and community members each year. Programs take place at AFFs environmental campus and adjacent Piscataway National Park, where students conduct STEM investigations including water quality testing, biodiversity monitoring, and watershed science. AFF helps Maryland communities build environmental literacy, foster stewardship, and protect the Chesapeake Bay watershed.</p>		

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

The purpose of this project is the design, construction, renovation, reconstruction, repair, site improvement, and capital equipping of facilities at the Alice Ferguson Foundations Hard Bargain Farm Environmental Campus in Accokeek, Maryland, Prince George's County. As several structures on the campus are more than 100 years old, critical infrastructure improvements are necessary to maintain safe and functional educational facilities serving Maryland students. The project will address aging buildings through targeted repairs and renovations, establish a dedicated health treatment area required for Maryland residential youth programs, and rehabilitate an existing cottage to provide onsite housing for overnight staff required to supervise student programs. These improvements will preserve historic structures, ensure compliance with Maryland program requirements, and sustain the campus as a vital outdoor education resource for Maryland schools.

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	\$300,000
Equipment	\$148,000
Total	\$448,000

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

SMECO Matching Grant	\$10,000
South Face Matching Grant	\$40,000
Medici Matching Grant	\$98,000
Bond Bill	\$300,000
Total	\$448,000

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
TBD	TBD	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	
25000.00	7,000	7,000	
18. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in the Past 15 Years			
Legislative Session	Amount	Purpose	
2025	\$300,000	Hard Bargain Farm Environmental Center Campus U	
2022	\$350,000	Construction of Hard Bargain Farm Environmental Ce	
2021	\$200,000	Construction of Hard Bargain Farm Environmental Ce	
2020	\$200,000	Hard Bargain Farm Environmental Center Campus U	
19. Legal Name and Address of Grantee		Project Address (If Different)	
Alice Ferguson Foundation 2001 Bryan Point Road Accokeek, MD 20607			
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located	26 - Prince George's 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:	Theresa Cullen	Has An Appraisal Been Done?	Yes/No
Phone:	240-988-8476		Yes
Address:		If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value	
2001 Bryan Point Road Accokeek MD 20607		5/2020	7130000.00

24. Impact of Project on Staffing and Operating Cost at Project Site			
Current # of Employees	Projected # of Employees	Current Operating Budget	Projected Operating Budget
29	30	1913800.00	1950000.00
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	33139		
Space to be Renovated GSF	33139		
New GSF			

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

1925-2023

28. Comments

The Alice Ferguson Foundation respectfully requests \$300,000 in the FY2026 Maryland Bond Bill to address critical infrastructure needs and aging facilities at its environmental education campus in Accokeek, Maryland. For more than 70 years, the Foundation has served Maryland students through hands-on environmental education programs that support science learning, environmental literacy, and stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Several structures on the Foundations campus are more than 100 years old and require ongoing renovation and preservation to remain safe and functional for educational use. The historic Ferguson Farmhouse, which serves as the operational center for the Foundations education and community programs, continues to require structural improvements and system upgrades as preservation work progresses. Additional historic barnyard structures used by the Hard Bargain Farm environmental education programs also require restoration and stabilization to maintain their use for student programming.

Bond Bill support will also address state compliance and student safety needs. Maryland regulations for residential youth programs require the establishment of a dedicated health treatment area to provide appropriate care and supervision for students participating in overnight educational programs. Funding will support the construction and outfitting of this required space.

In addition, the project includes rehabilitation of an existing cottage to provide onsite staff housing for overnight program educators and supervisors. Maryland regulations require appropriate overnight supervision for residential programs serving youth, and providing safe, proximate housing ensures compliance while supporting program operations.

State investment in this project will preserve important historic structures, maintain critical educational infrastructure, and ensure compliance with Maryland program requirements so that thousands of Maryland students can continue to benefit from immersive outdoor education experiences each year.