

State Of Maryland

2026 Bond Initiative Fact Sheet

1. Name Of Project		
New Essex Library Branch		
2. Senate Sponsor	3. House Sponsor	
Salling	Metzgar	
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)	5. Requested Amount	
Baltimore County	\$500,000	
6. Purpose of Bond Initiative		
the acquisition, planning, design, construction, expansion, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping of the New Essex Library Branch		
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
Ann Beegle		410-887-6235
10. Description and Purpose of Organization (Limit length to visible area)		
<p>Baltimore County Public Library serves the diverse communities throughout Baltimore County with 19 branches, four bookmobiles and a virtual branch, bringing the library within easy reach for more than 850,000 residents. A robust collection and customer-oriented programs serve all ages and interests of library visitors in person and online while partnerships with local agencies, nonprofits and businesses extend the library's impact in the community. In addition to loaning materials and offering public programs, Baltimore County Public Library provides computer access and free WiFi, often to customers without access at home, and offers spaces for reading, studying and meeting.</p>		

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

The Essex Branch is 56 years old and is not equipped to serve the current needs of customers who have expectations of traditional and non-traditional services, including everything from quiet study and reading areas to places to gather and play. It has proven to be inadequate in space and technological infrastructure. The branch is scheduled to be replaced with a new building at a new location. We will replace the current 20,000-square-foot branch, located in an aging shopping center, with a brand new, 35,769-square-foot building, located on a 4.61-acre plot of land adjacent to an elementary school. This library will include dedicated spaces for children, teens, and adults; ADA accessibility throughout; a public meeting room for 100 with integrated technology; multiple private study rooms, customer work areas, and collaborative spaces, and abundant electrical outlets throughout to support use of technology by customers and staff.

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	\$2,000,000
Design	\$4,000,000
Construction	\$39,000,000
Equipment	\$3,000,000
Total	\$48,000,000

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

Baltimore County Government	\$17,500,000
State	\$17,500,000
Private	\$11,000,000
Federal	\$2,000,000
Total	\$48,000,000

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
7/1/2024	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
	69,806		
18. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in the Past 15 Years			
Legislative Session	Amount	Purpose	
2022	\$450,000	Acquisition, planning, design. construction, repair, ren	
19. Legal Name and Address of Grantee		Project Address (If Different)	
Baltimore County Public Library 320 York Road Towson, MD 21204		1513-1519 Old Eastern Avenue Essex, MD 21221	
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located	6 - Baltimore 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:		Has An Appraisal Been Done?	Yes/No
Phone:			No
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
22	30		
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	20,000 GSF		
Space to be Renovated GSF	N/A		
New GSF	35,769 GSF		

27. Year of Construction of Any Structures Proposed for Renovation, Restoration or Conversion	N/A
28. Comments	
<p>The Essex Branch serves a population of nearly 70,000 people on the eastern side of Baltimore County. The area is diverse. In the decade between the 2010 and 2020 Censuses, the population of African Americans increased by 34%, and the population of Hispanic residents increased by 61%. Nearly 10% of residents are considered New Americans. In the period of 2019-2023, 38% of households in the service area had an annual income of less than \$50,000, compared to 24% of people in the state of Maryland.</p> <p>In FY2025, the Essex Branch hosted 113,000 visitors, and circulated 147,000 items. Computer usage is one of the highest in our 19-branch system; 38,000 customers used the public computers last year, and 33,000 customers logged onto the public WiFi. The branch is also one of our busiest as far as serving free summer meals to children; while participants do not need to prove financial need to receive a meal, the numbers do indicate a need in the community. Indeed, the Essex Branch service area ranks high on the Centers for Disease Controls Social Vulnerability Index, indicating a population that is marginalized and disadvantaged. The index is comprised of four categories of vulnerability: socioeconomic status; household composition and vulnerability; minority status and language; and housing and transportation. This historically underserved community will benefit from everything that a 21st century library has to offer.</p>	