State Of Maryland
2026 Bond Initiative Fact Sheet

1. Name Of Project		
SpringForward Farms - Laurel		
2. Senate Sponsor	**3. House Sponsor**	
Howard County Senators	Howard County Delegation	
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)	**5. Requested Amount**	
Howard County	$248,000	
6. Purpose of Bond Initiative		
the acquisition, planning, design, construction, expansion, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping of the SpringForward Farms - Laurel property		
7. Matching Fund		
Requirements: Grant	Type:	
8. Special Provisions		
[ ] Historical Easement	[X] Non-Sectarian	
9. Contact Name and Title	**Contact Ph#**	**Email Address**
Piper Phillips Caswell		(703) 941-8810
10. Description and Purpose of Organization (Limit length to visible area)		
At SpringForward Ventures we are creating people-first workplaces that recognize every individuals value and potential, including through our indoor hydroponic farm, where meaningful employment and skill-building happen in a controlled, innovative environment. Our purpose is to design work settings that support economic stability, dignity, and long-term opportunityparticularly for adults with behavioral wellness needs. Grounded in real-world practice, we advance inclusive and adaptable employment models that promote shared prosperity. By reimagining how work is structured and supported, we help people thrive while building equitable, sustainable, and just organizations.		

11. Description and Purpose of Project (Limit length to visible area)
SpringForward Farms is a commercial indoor hydroponic farming enterprise operated by SpringForward Ventures that integrates workforce development with sustainable urban agriculture. Its purpose is to operate a viable, revenue-generating business while preparing individuals particularly those with mental health wellness needs and barriers to employment for long-term success in the controlled-environment agriculture sector. The farm develops and delivers a structured training curriculum, including manager-led instruction and industry-recognized certifications, to recruit and train 40 participants in hydroponic farm operations. Participants gain hands-on experience alongside a trained project manager and agricultural experts, building technical, operational, and employability skills while supporting sustained greenhouse operations and pathways to meaningful employment.

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	$69,000
Design	$90,000
Construction	$315,000
Equipment	$151,000
Total	$625,000

13. Proposed Funding Sources - (List all funding sources and amounts.)	
Bond Bill	$248,000
Peter David Brendsel Fund	$100,000
Crescent Cities Charities	$10,000
fundraising misc individual donations secured	$177,000
DOL CDS funds for design	$90,000
Total	$625,000

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**
09.2025	2.2026	TBD	07.2026

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**
377000.00	0	28

18. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in the Past 15 Years		
Legislative Session	**Amount**	**Purpose**

19. Legal Name and Address of Grantee	**Project Address** (If Different)
SpringForwardVentures 8920 Whiskey Bottom Road Laurel, MD 20723	9070 Maier Road Unit 3 Laurel, MD 20723

20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located	13 - Howard 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:	Piper Phillips Caswell	**Has An Appraisal Been Done?**	Yes/No
Phone:	301/470-1620		No
Address:		**If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value**	
8920 Whiskey Bottom Road Laurel, MD 20723			

24. Impact of Project on Staffing and Operating Cost at Project Site			
Current # of Employees	**Projected # of Employees**	**Current Operating Budget**	**Projected Operating Budget**
*	8	120000.00	421000.00

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
H Schraf RE I, LLC	3 years	yes

26. Building Square Footage:	
Current Space GSF	5,000
Space to be Renovated GSF	5,000
New GSF	

27. Year of Construction of Any Structures Proposed for Renovation, Restoration or Conversion	1987

28. Comments

SpringForward received a MD CDS grant of $307,000 from then Senator Cardin and Senator Van Hollen managed through the DOL to develop controlled agriculture environment (CEA) curriculum and train 40 individuals in indoor agricultural practices. This will occur at this site in addition to permanent employment for the commercial operation. Longer term plans are to also offer apprenticeships in CEA. Note the design expenses, # 12 are a part of this grant funding.

Our Annandale VA project has also received funding through the USDA Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production program.

* Employees reflect staff from PHILLIPS Programs who have been developing SpringForward. That number is 4 plus consultants. First full year of operation will have 8 full-time employees and 20 trainees through the DOL grant in addition to serving as a practicum site for a Maryland college ag program.

SpringForward Farms operates as a commercial controlled-environment agriculture (CEA) business that delivers measurable environmental and community benefits alongside workforce outcomes. Indoor hydroponic production significantly reduces water use, eliminates agricultural runoff, and minimizes land and transportation impacts while enabling year-round growing in an urban setting. By producing fresh, high-quality greens locally, SpringForward Farms shortens supply chains and increases reliable access to nutritious food for nearby communities, including those historically underserved by conventional food systems. Revenue generated through commercial sales supports the long-term sustainability of the operation while reinforcing a model that aligns environmental stewardship, local food access, and inclusive economic opportunity.

We have a USDA Local Food Production application pending for marketing but we have engaged a firm and are moving forward with that regardless. We have historical communication with FreshPoint and the sales of microgreens along with a history of selling through our school program. The school program, PHILLIPS School ~ Laurel has 10 years' experience growing hydroponically.