

State Of Maryland

2026 Bond Initiative Fact Sheet

1. Name Of Project		
Sugarland Ethno History Project - the Dorsey Site		
2. Senate Sponsor	3. House Sponsor	
Feldman	Foley	
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)	5. Requested Amount	
Montgomery County	\$66,600	
6. Purpose of Bond Initiative		
the acquisition, planning, design, construction, expansion, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping of the Sugarland Ethno History Project, including installing an accessible heritage trail with interpretive signage on the Dorsey Farm in		
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
Suzanne Johnson		301-646-4692
10. Description and Purpose of Organization (Limit length to visible area)		
<p>Our mission is to preserve the African American history of the Sugarland Community in Montgomery County. The Sugarland Ethno-History Project was established to document this community, started by former enslaved people, in Poolesville. Our goal is to create an archive type museum to document the genealogy of members of this community from slavery to the present. We also wish to create outreach programs for students and the general public to learn more about the African American experience from slavery to freedom.</p>		

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
0.00	150		500
18. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in the Past 15 Years			
Legislative Session	Amount	Purpose	
NA	\$0	NA	
19. Legal Name and Address of Grantee		Project Address (If Different)	
Sugarland Ethno History Project, Inc. 8610 Leslie Ave. Glenarden, MD 20706		14728 Sugarland Ln. Poolesville, Md 20837	
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located	15 - Montgomery 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:	Suzanne Johnson	Has An Appraisal Been Done?	Yes/No
Phone:	301-646-4692		No
Address:		If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value	
8610 Leslie Ave. Glenarden, MD 20706			

24. Impact of Project on Staffing and Operating Cost at Project Site			
Current # of Employees	Projected # of Employees	Current Operating Budget	Projected Operating Budget
N/A	N/A	0.00	66000.00
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	
NA			
26. Building Square Footage:			
Current Space GSF	60,000 SF		
Space to be Renovated GSF	15,000 SF		
New GSF	15,000 SF		

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

NA

28. Comments

The Dorsey Site in Sugarland, MD, is significant because the Dorseys were one of the founding families in Sugarland, which was the largest post-Civil War community in Montgomery County. The farm was originally woman-owned, and the family members were active in the Sugarland during the peak of its growth. This is a particularly important heritage park because it may be the only one in Maryland commemorating Post Civil-War life and community development. The community contained a church, community hall, grocery store, post office, and a school. In

In addition, many residents ran their own businesses out of their homes.

This is summarized from the book entitled, *I Have Started For Canaan: The Story of an African American Town of Sugarland* from the Sugarland Ethno History Project, as well as the Maryland Historic Sites Survey Forms (M: 17-41-42; and M:17-41-20).

Sugarland, Maryland, began in 1871 when Patrick and Amelia Hebron, Luke and Harriet Lynch, Peter Jackson, Sam and Margaret Johnson, James Beckwith, and the Curtis family founded the community. They built the Sugarland Church in 1871, which locals used as a church, a community center, and a school to teach their children. The community built a new church in its place in 1893. Residents added a judicial system in the church where local concerns and disputes could be heard and resolved in a civil way. In addition, residents built a grocery store, a coronet band, a U.S. Post Office, and a new School.

The Sugarland Grocery Store was built and owned by the Krollhoss family in the 1890s. It was a two-story frame house. Isaac Bell operated the store in the early 20th Century. This community grocery store sold such items as canned goods, cold cuts, cheese, beef, pork, bakery products, and other foodstuffs. It sold small household items like brooms but did not sell farm supplies. For those things, the people went to Poolesville (M: 17-41-42). A coronet Band formed in 1899 with Isaac Bell, Richard Curtis, Robert Hebron, Hanna Bell, George Taylor, Frank Branison, Albert Beckwith, Levi Mason, John Johnson, Basil Jackson, and Henry Mason. Horace Jackson built a studio or office space for the band on his farm on the other side of the Church in Sugarland (Historic Structure Survey Report on Horace Jacksons farm, M:17-41-20). The Post Office was formed in 1885 (M:17-41-42). Nathan Johnson was the second African American postman in Montgomery County. He lived next to Horace Jackson and built a one-room post office on his property across the creek from the Dorsey farm in Sugarland. The people of Sugarland built the first community hall in the late 19th century, and while residents had been sending their children to the Sugarland Church to start school since 1871, in 1925, they constructed the first standalone school in Sugarland.