

State Of Maryland

2026 Bond Initiative Fact Sheet

| | | |
|---|---|----------------------|
| 1. Name Of Project | | |
| United States Colored Troops Memorial | | |
| 2. Senate Sponsor | 3. House Sponsor | |
| Hershey | Arentz | |
| 4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City) | 5. Requested Amount | |
| Queen Anne's County | \$100,000 | |
| 6. Purpose of Bond Initiative | | |
| the acquisition, planning, design, construction, expansion, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping of a bronze sculpture of a United States Colored Troops Soldier | | |
| 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 |
| Marcia Landskroener | | 410-699-1026 |
| | | |
| | | |
| 10. Description and Purpose of Organization (Limit length to visible area) | | |
| <p>The United States Colored Troops (USCT) Memorial was established in 2025 as a component fund of Chesapeake Charities, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Its purpose is to honor the contributions of those African American soldiers whose military service during the Civil War not only earned them their personal freedom, but helped preserve the Union and put an end to slavery. The memorial is an artistic work of cultural significance that will help address a critical gap in contemporary understanding of our local history that has largely ignored or forgotten the significant contributions of those freedmen whose valor and sacrifices shaped the course of our nations history and specifically those 480 USCT soldiers from Queen Anne's County identified thus far. The intent is to ensure that their courage, sacrifice, and service are remembered for generations to come.</p> | | |

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

The issue at hand is the invisibility of the USCTs role in Queen Annes County history. Despite their documented service, their stories are largely absent from public discourse. This gap denies descendants and residents the chance to fully understand their heritage, while also limiting the narrative available to visitors, students, and historians. The USCT Memorial is intended to honor those Black soldiers whose bravery and commitment to the cause of freedom have been largely forgotten. Created by Maryland artist Tilghman Hemsley, the bronze sculpture will stand atop a granite base engraved with the names of 480 USCT soldiers from QAC. The soldier's pose communicates strength and compassion. Depicted as a battle draws to its close, the soldier is resolute, his gaze fixed on the future. Installed at Kennard African American Cultural Heritage Center, the USCT Memorial will support educational programming, drive heritage tourism, and instill a sense of community pride.

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 | \$30,000 |
| Construction | \$249,000 |
| Equipment | |
| Total | \$279,000 |

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

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Legislative Bond Initiative - requested | \$100,000 |
| Queen Anne's County Commissioners - requested | \$50,000 |
| Maryland State Arts Council PAAM - requested | \$30,000 |
| Anonymous Family Foundation - received | \$25,000 |
| Increte of Maryland - in-kind gift pledged | \$25,000 |
| American Patriotic Monuments, Inc. - received | \$20,000 |
| American Legion Post 18, Centreville - received | \$10,000 |
| VFW Post 7464 Grasonville - received | \$10,000 |
| Private Donations - underway | \$9,000 |
| | |
| | |
| Total | \$279,000 |

| 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 |
| Complete | Complete | March 2026 | TBD 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 |
| 93000.00 | | 2,800 | 50,000 |
| 18. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in the Past 15 Years | | | |
| Legislative Session | Amount | Purpose | |
| none | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| 19. Legal Name and Address of Grantee | | Project Address (If Different) | |
| CHESAPEAKE CHARITIES on behalf of USCT Memorial 101 Log Canoe Circle, Suite 0 Stevensville, MD 21666 | | Kennard African American Cultural Heritage Center 410 Little Kidwell Avenue Centreville, MD 21617 | |
| 20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located | 36 - Kent, Queen Anne's, Cecil, and Caroline Counties | | |
| 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: | Law Offices of Courtney M. Billups | Has An Appraisal Been Done? | Yes/No |
| Phone: | 202-351-6848 | | No |
| Address: | | If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value | |
| 2001 L Street, NW, Suite 500 Washington, DC 20036 | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

| 24. Impact of Project on Staffing and Operating Cost at Project Site | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Current # of Employees | Projected # of Employees | Current Operating Budget | Projected Operating Budget | |
| 1.5 | 2.5 | 165000.00 | 175000.00 | |
| 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 |
| | | | | |
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| E. If property is leased by grantee - Provide the following: | | | | |
| Name of Leaser | | Length of Lease | Options to Renew | |
| | | | | |
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| 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 USCT Memorial intends to fill a critical gap in local historical recognition by honoring those freed Black soldiers from Queen Anne's County who fought in the Civil War. While African American soldiers played a vital role in preserving the Union and advancing emancipation, their contributions remain underrepresented in local public history.</p> <p>The need is threefold:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Recognition & Inclusion ensuring that African American veterans are honored in equal measure.2. Education & Awareness creating new interpretive content for schools, heritage tourism, and local civic life.3. Community Healing & Identity providing a physical, enduring memorial to anchor reflection, pride, and inspiration. <p>The population served is wide: local residents of all ages, students in K-12 and higher education, descendants of the USCT, heritage tourists across the Mid-Shore, and veterans families. The memorial will be installed at the Kennard African American Cultural Heritage Center, a site already established as a place of African American pride, history, and education.</p> <p>With deep local roots and inspired by local veterans, the USCT Memorial has brought together diverse partners, including heritage groups, civic leaders, schools, and veterans, to deliver a lasting symbol of recognition and unity for the entire region. Among those voicing their support for the project are the Queen Anne's County Commissioners, the Town of Centreville, Queen Anne's County Center for the Arts, Queen Anne's County Historical Society, Kent Island Heritage Society, Sudlersville Community Betterment Club, and Washington College's Chesapeake Heartland, an African American Humanities Project.</p> <p>Its director, upon reviewing the maquette, noted: "I must say I was very impressed with the caliber of the work and the care [the artist] has taken to convey the idea of strength and power. It's as if the soldier is looking at the future, where young Black men like me can determine for themselves what they can do with their lives. This soldier has proven himself in battle, which has emboldened him to become an agent of change in his community. The struggle for freedom and equality, as you know, did not end with the Civil War. These veterans no doubt became community leaders and early advocates for civil rights and developed the communities that I spend each day honoring through my work."</p> <p>The USCT Memorial will be installed in the garden of the Kennard African American Cultural Heritage Center, where community gatherings are often held. The statue will be erected at the center of a 24-foot circle of bricks or pavers, encompassing approximately 452 square feet. The sculpture itself stands approximately nine feet tall, with a 30-inch high granite base, and a 6 and a half foot tall figure.</p> | |