



February 11, 2020

House Bill 472

Housing - Community Development Program Act - Funding

House Environment and Transportation Committee

Position: Favorable

Anne Arundel County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 472 – Housing – Community Development Fund Program Act – Funding, which would create a permanent funding source for the Community Development Fund. The Community Development Fund was established during the 2018 legislative session without a permanent funding source. Once funded, it will provide much needed capital resources to support affordable housing development and critical operating support for nonprofit organizations to carry out related support, such as case management, homeownership counseling, and financial coaching.

The Fund, as established, allows for resources to be used toward the construction of affordable housing units and supportive services to sustain those units. The need for affordable housing units in the State- and our jurisdiction- is great. In Anne Arundel County alone, there are over 22,000 unduplicated households on the waiting list for Housing Commission administered programs. Over 8,000 households in our County are severely cost burdened, that is they spend more than 50 percent of their income on housing costs.

Growing the capacity of nonprofit organizations that help get low and moderate income households into affordable housing and help them stay there is an essential tool in our efforts to make our communities “The Best Place for All.” Organizations such as The Light House Shelter have utilized State capital funds to support their shelter, but additional operating funds are needed to leverage County, private, and federal funds to sustain operations. Arundel Community Development Services provides homeownership counseling, foreclosure prevention counseling and financial coaching to help residents obtain sustainable homeownership or rental housing and requires operating funding to carry out this work. Due to the extremely limited and competitive nature of existing operating programs available to community development organizations, a permanent and dedicated source of funding is needed to support our partners on the ground, while leveraging local general development funds the County invests each year into housing and community development.

Accordingly, Anne Arundel County respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 472.