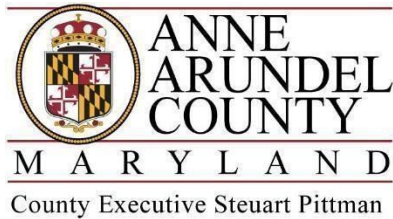


Anne Arundel County_FAV_SB699.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Baron, Peter

Position: FAV



February 23, 2021

Senate Bill 699
Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative Program Fund
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

The Baltimore Regional Neighborhoods Initiative (BRNI) provides grants to fund revitalization strategies in State-designated Sustainable Community areas located within the Baltimore beltway. BRNI started as a pilot program of \$3 million in fiscal 2014, and has had an annual appropriation of \$12 million since fiscal year 2020. Senate Bill 699 would extend the required annual appropriation of \$12 million through fiscal year 2026.

The greater Baybrook area, which includes the Anne Arundel County community of Brooklyn Park, is one of the designated areas eligible for BRNI funding. Brooklyn Park is one of Anne Arundel County's oldest communities and one of Baltimore City's first suburbs. The community directly abuts the Baltimore City community of Brooklyn to its east, and is south across the Patapsco River from the Baltimore City community of Cherry Hill.

Since fiscal year 2018, the Greater Baybrook Alliance has received over \$3 million in BRNI grants for projects including expansion of property rehabilitation programs in Brooklyn Heights and Arundel Village, seeding of community-driven small to medium scale capital improvement projects, rodent abatement, and development of a Chesapeake Arts Center makerspace. Anne Arundel County also routinely dedicates funds to projects in Brooklyn Park. In recent years, the County has funded improvements to a bike trail and parks, expansion of the Brooklyn Park Senior Center, and redevelopment of athletic facilities.

BRNI is an important investment tool to support strategic neighborhood revitalization in communities such as Brooklyn Park. **For those reasons, we urge a FAVORABLE report on Senate Bill 699.**

BaltimoreCounty_FAV_SB0699.pdf

Uploaded by: Conner, Charles

Position: FAV



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

CHARLES R. CONNER III, ESQ.
Director of Government Affairs

JOEL N. BELLER
Deputy Director of Government Affairs

BILL NO.: **SB 699**

TITLE: Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative Program Fund

SPONSOR: Senator McCray

COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 23, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 699 – Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative Program Fund. This legislation would extend requirements for the annual appropriation in the State budget for the Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative Program Fund.

This program provides funding to communities in the Baltimore Metro area which receive disproportionate underinvestment. Projects funds can be used for down payment assistance for homebuyers to purchase and rehabilitate homes, workforce and employment development programs, and strategic demolition. In his time as a Delegate, Baltimore County Executive Olszewski was a staunch supporter of the Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative Program. He understands that investment in nearby underserved communities will have significant positive impacts on the region as a whole.

SB 699 will extend this program till FY 26 and provides more opportunities for community investment. The State must continue to commit investment in its most vulnerable communities.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 699. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs at cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov.

SB0699-02.23.21-- Baltimore Regional Neighborhood

Uploaded by: Fry, Donald

Position: FAV



**TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE
SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

SENATE BILL 699 -- BALTIMORE REGIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE PROGRAM FUND

Sponsor – Senator McCray

February 23, 2021

**DONALD C. FRY
PRESIDENT & CEO
GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE**

Position: Support

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) supports Senate Bill 699, which extends the sunset on the mandated \$12 million annual appropriation to the Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative Program Fund from fiscal year 2022 to fiscal year 2026.

The program allows the state to make strategic investments in local housing and businesses, which can lead to healthy, sustainable communities with a growing tax base and enhanced quality of life. The program attempts to focus on areas where modest investment and a coordinated strategy will have an appreciable neighborhood revitalization impact.

Community Development Organizations with an approved strategic neighborhood revitalization plan may apply for Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative funding for projects located in Sustainable Community Areas in Baltimore City and the inner beltway of Baltimore and Anne Arundel counties. Cross-jurisdictional partnerships are eligible and encouraged.

The GBC *2021 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Priorities* advocates for policy, funding, and regulatory solutions to accelerate economic recovery with an emphasis on support for small and minority-owned business. The funding extension of this proven program will enable the state to continue funding the housing and business needs in some of our state's most vulnerable communities.

For these reasons, the Greater Baltimore Committee urges a favorable report on House Bill 867.

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) is a non-partisan, independent, regional business advocacy organization comprised of hundreds of businesses -- large, medium and small -- educational institutions, nonprofit organizations and foundations located in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties as well as Baltimore City. The GBC is a 66-year-old, private-sector membership organization with a rich legacy of working with government to find solutions to problems that negatively affect our competitiveness and viability.

GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

111 South Calvert Street • Suite 1700 • Baltimore, Maryland • 21202-6180

(410) 727-2820 • www.gbc.org

SB699 Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative P

Uploaded by: Hughes, Jim

Position: FAV

February 23, 2021

The Honorable Paul Pinsky
Chairman
Education, Health, & Environmental Affairs
Committee
2W Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

SB 699 - Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative Program Fund

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

The University of Maryland, Baltimore would like to voice its support of the Baltimore Regional Neighborhoods Initiative (BRNI) and its support of SB699 which provides for the extension of this program to 2026.

UMB has been a partner in the Southwest Partnership (SWP), which is comprised of seven neighborhoods and six anchor institutions. Through the continuation of BRNI, SWP could have the opportunity to access funding for such initiatives as the acquisition of iconic buildings in the community for redevelopment, small business loans for façade treatment and retail investment, and reclamation of vacant lots and the SWP area.

On behalf of the community development organizations that are working hard, along with anchor institutions, to restore vitality and economic health in Baltimore's neighborhoods, UMB asks your approval of SB699.

Sincerely,

James Hughes, MBA
Senior Vice President
Chief Enterprise & Economic Development Officer

SB 699 Testimony EHEA.pdf

Uploaded by: McCray, Cory

Position: FAV

CORY V. MCCRAY
Legislative District 45
Baltimore City



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 221
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3165 • 301-858-3165
800-492-7122 Ext. 3165
Cory.Mccray@senate.state.md.us

Budget and Taxation Committee
Capital Budget Subcommittee
Health and Human Services Subcommittee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Vote Yes on Senate Bill 699

Bill Title: Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative Program Fund

Hearing Date: February 23, 2021 - Education, Health, and Environmental Matters Committee

Chair: The Honorable Paul Pinsky; Vice Chair: The Honorable Cheryl Kagan

I write to you today in **support** of Senate Bill 699. The Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative Program promotes investment in local housing and businesses, and sustainable communities. The Program seeks to make investments in previously underinvested communities to enhance the quality of life in Baltimore City and surrounding jurisdictions. Community Development Organizations in the Metropolitan Area have greatly benefited from funding, impacting neighborhood revitalization. Projects eligible for funding include:

1. Projects that provide down payment assistance to attract homebuyers
2. Projects that seek to reduce blight
3. Projects that seek to ensure that communities are sustainable
4. Development projects that incorporate housing, office, and retail space
5. And community enhancement projects.

The purpose of Senate Bill 699 is to extend the requirement to provide an annual appropriation of \$12M in the State budget for the Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative Program Fund through fiscal year 2026, as current law only ensures that funds are appropriated through fiscal year 2022.

In efforts to improve our communities and positively impact the quality of life of residents, we hope that you will move for a **favorable** report of Senate Bill 699.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cory V. McCray".

Cory V. McCray
State Senator

BRNI PPP.pdf

Uploaded by: Mehu, Natasha

Position: FAV



BALTIMORE CITY
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

BALTIMORE REGIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD (BRNI) FUNDS

Presented to: Baltimore City Delegation
Alice Kennedy, Acting Commissioner
February 12, 2021





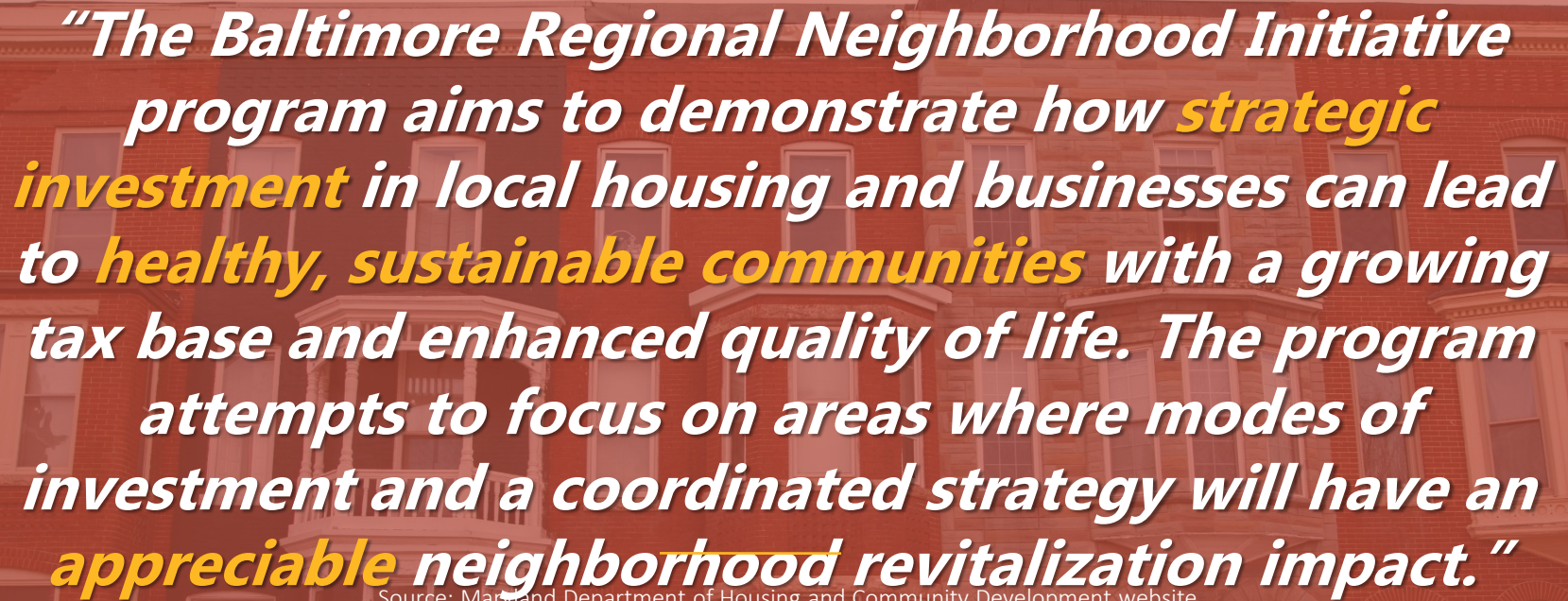
BALTIMORE CITY
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

About the BRNI Program

- Grew out of the 2013 Regional Revitalization Workgroup
- Aims to increase economic competitiveness and livability of the Baltimore region
- Use State funds to leverage investment that would “put a project over the top”
- 2013 Session established 3-year pilot program, a few highlights:
 - FY14: \$3 Million to establish pilot program
 - Supported 4 organizations:
 - Central Baltimore Partnership
 - Southeast CDC
 - Healthy Neighborhoods
 - Dundalk Renaissance
- HB684 codified BRNI in 2016



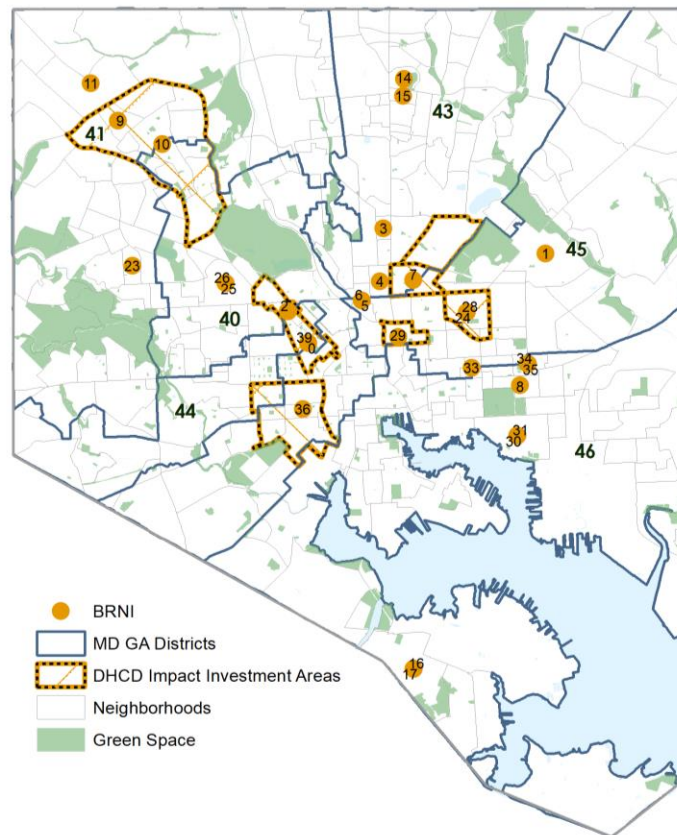


*"The Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative program aims to demonstrate how **strategic investment** in local housing and businesses can lead to **healthy, sustainable communities** with a growing tax base and enhanced quality of life. The program attempts to focus on areas where modes of investment and a coordinated strategy will have an **appreciable neighborhood revitalization impact.**"*

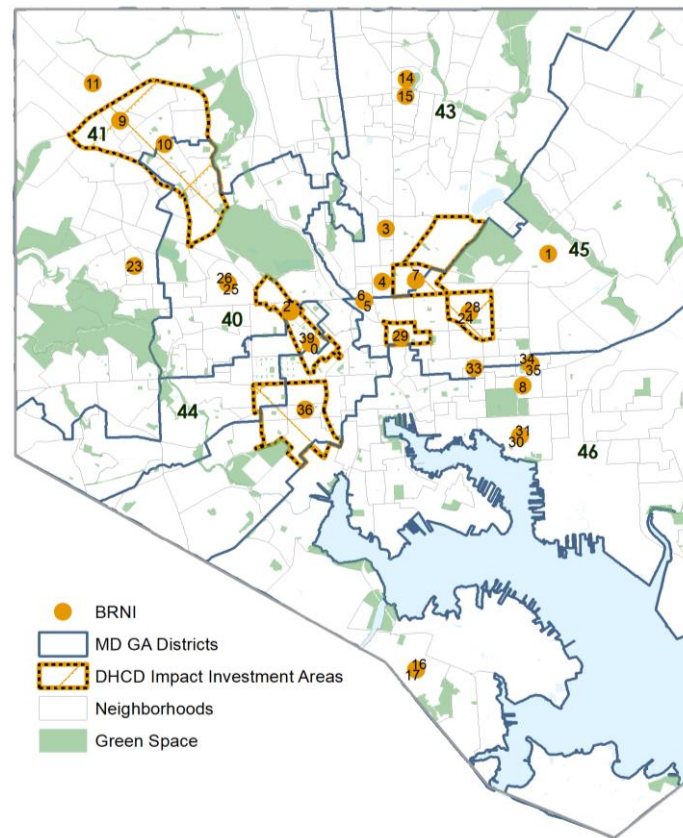
Source: Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development website

- **Who are eligible:** Community Development Organizations
- **Where:** considered a State Sustainable Community
- **Qualifications** to be approved as a BRNI area:
 - Approved strategic neighborhood revitalization plan
 - Plan identifies strategies and projects for funding requests
 - Based on stakeholder participation & identification of priorities
- **Funds** are requested on behalf of multiple projects and stakeholders
- **Examples** of eligible projects:
 - Down payment assistance to attract home buyers to purchase and rehabilitate homes
 - Acquire or rehabilitate vacant or blighted properties
 - Improve existing residential and business properties
 - Achieve energy efficiency through weatherization and energy retrofits
 - Mixed-use projects that combine housing, retail and office space
 - Development or enhancement of community open space or public infrastructure
 - Workforce and employment development programs
 - Strategic demolition
 - Operating costs necessary to implement a community enhancement project

- 0 - The Avenue Market Renovation (\$225,000)
- 1 - BRNI Homeownership Incentives (\$100,000)
- 2 - Etting Street Project (\$250,000)
- 3 - Waverly Main Street Program (\$55,000)
- 4 - Legacy Home Improvement Program (\$50,000)
- 5 - Community Spruce-Up Program (\$50,000)
- 6 - Neil Muldrow Biz Dev Fund (\$175,000)
- 7 - Compound Stabilization and Expansion (\$150,000)
- 8 - Central Baltimore Future Fund (\$500,000)
- 9 - Acq. - Reno. - Homeownership Program (\$100,000)
- 10 - Park West Capital Expansion Project (\$200,000)
- 11 - Northwest Baltimore Partnership (\$75,000)
- 12 - Green and Streetscape Program (\$75,000)
- 13 - BRNI Homeownership Incentive (\$100,000)
- 14 - York Road Façade Improvement Project (\$55,000)
- 15 - Woodbourne-McCabe (\$100,000)
- 16 - Garrett Park Action Plan (\$250,000)
- 17 - Greater Baybrook Alliance (\$100,000)
- 18 - BRNI Homeownership Incentive (\$100,000)
- 19 - Community Spruce-Up Grants (\$50,000)



- 20 - Brooklyn & Curtis Bay Rehab Program (\$250,000)
- 21 - S. Baltimore EC and Community Center (\$258,627)
- 22 - Druid Heights Acq. and Stabilization Project (\$200,000)
- 23 - Howard Park Homeownership Incentives (\$100,000)
- 24 - Southern Stream Health and Wellness Center (\$250,000)
- 25 – GRM Homeownership Incentives (\$100,000)
- 26 – GRM "Spruce Up" (\$55,000)
- 27 - GRM- Coppin Heights CDC Operating Support (\$50,000)
- 28 - Near East Baltimore Green Space (\$50,000)
- 29 - Brentwood Place Rehabs 2020 (\$500,000)
- 30 - BRNI BOOST Homeownership Incentive (\$100,000)
- 31 - Neighborhood Spruce-Up 4 (\$50,000)
- 32 - Southeast CDC Operations and Planning (\$100,000)
- 33 - CARE Exterior Residential Improvement Initiative (\$50,000)
- 34 - Ellwood Park Residential Exterior Improvements (\$50,000)
- 35 - Homeownership in Next Neighborhoods (\$150,000)
- 36 - Southwest Partnership General Operating Fund (\$100,000)
- 37 - Lenox Theatre Project (\$150,000)
- 38 - Penn Ave Facade & Interior Program (\$150,000)
- 39 - Druid Hill Y Family Center Renovation (\$200,000)



FY	TOTAL	CAPITAL	OPERATING	APPLICANTS	AMOUNT REQUESTED	NO. PROJECTS REQUESTED	NO. PROJECTS FUNDED
2020	\$8.525M	\$7.775M	\$750,000	32	\$47.2M	130	55 ¹
2019	\$8.75M	\$8M	\$750,000	21	\$28.24M	100	59
2018	\$8.75M	\$8M	\$750,000	18	\$21.15M	73	28
2017	\$3.61M	\$2.86M	\$750,000	9	\$9.74M	43	33
2016	3.75M	\$3M	\$750,000	4	\$7.2M	32	18
2015	\$2.43M	\$1.68M	\$750,000	4	\$3.88M	24	18

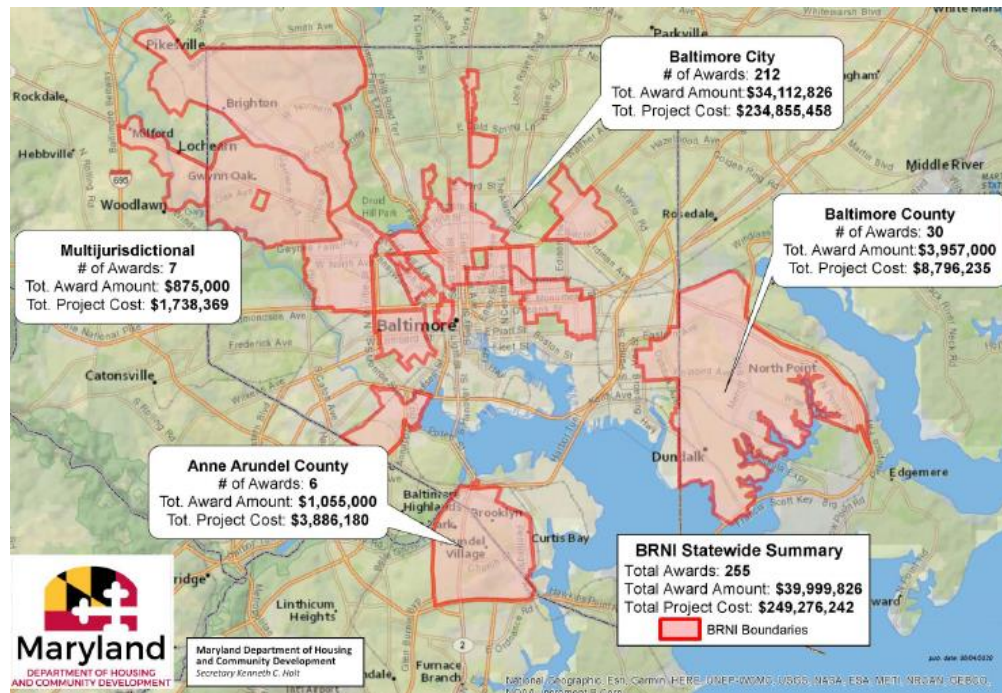
Source: Maryland DHCD, Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative, Annual Financial Report as of June 30, 2020



BALTIMORE CITY
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

IMPACT

- 212 awards
- \$34.1 Million awarded
- \$235 Million project investment



Community Development Framework

In 2019, the Baltimore City Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD) released its Community Development Framework which articulates DHCD's overall strategic approach to community development and neighborhood revitalization.

The Framework is organized around three key strategies:

- Resources and Capacity for Community Development
- Promote Access and Equity
- Invest in All Neighborhoods



Eastside Impact Investment Area

- Johnston Square Rehabs
- North of the Tracks Public Improvements
- Preston Street/Oliver Rehabs
- EBDI Retail Improvements & Emerging Developers program

Westside Impact Investment Area

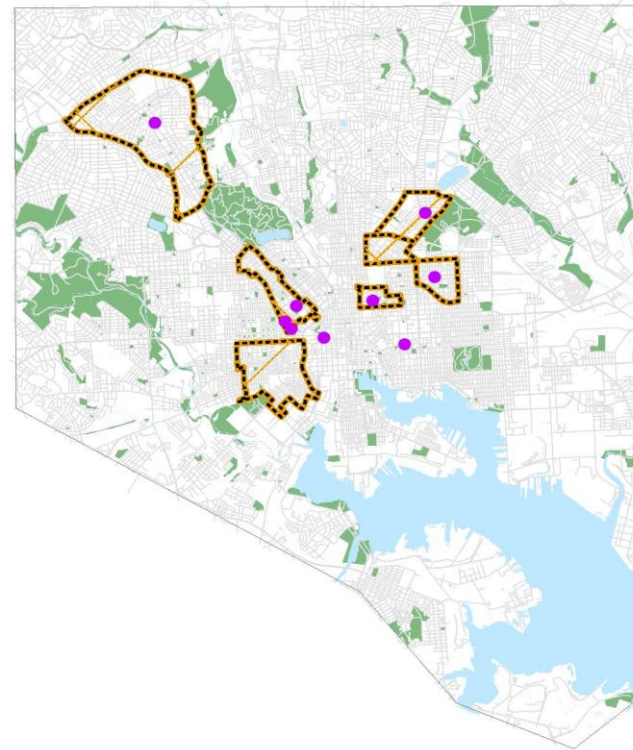
- Druid Hill YMCA
- Druid Heights Homeownership & Green Space
- Upton Homeownership
- Pennsylvania Avenue Market

Park Heights Impact Investment Area

- Park West Medical Center
- Arlington Homeownership

Southwest Impact Investment Area

- Paul's Place Culinary Kitchen
- North Fulton Pocket Park



Leveraging Investment: Community Catalyst Grants

Capital

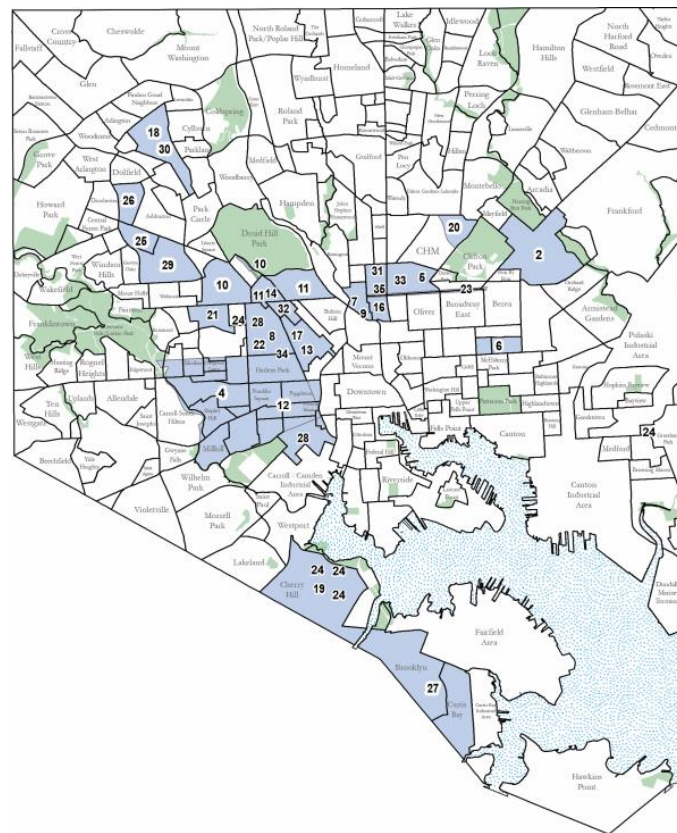
- \$3.3 Million
- 25 Awards
- \$52 Million in leverage

Operating

- \$1.75 Million
- 35 Awards
- More than 50% to Emerging Organizations

Examples

- American Communities Trust
- Belair Edison Neighborhoods
- Black Women Build
- Coppin Heights CDC
- Mary Harvin CDC
- Neighborhood Housing Services
- People's Homesteading Group
- Parks and People
- Southwest Partnership



ESTABLISHED ORGANIZATIONS

1. Baltimore Roundtable*
2. Belair-Edison
3. Bikemore*
4. Bon Secours
5. Central Baltimore Part.
6. HEBAC
7. Impact HUB Baltimore & Twilight Quest
8. Intersection of Change
9. Neighborhood Design
10. Parks & People
11. St. Francis Neigh.Center
12. SW Partnership
13. Upton Planning Committee

EMERGING ORGANIZATIONS

14. Arch Social Community
15. Balto. Good Neighbors*
16. Balto. Youth Kinetic Energy
17. Black Women Build
18. BRIDGES
19. Cherry Hill Dev. Corp.
20. CHM CDC
21. Coppin Heights CDC
22. Transformation Sandtown
23. East North Avenue CDC
24. Endside Out - 5 Schools
25. Forest Park Alliance & WBC CDC
26. Garrison Restorative Action
27. Greater Baybrook Alliance
28. Habitat Chesapeake
29. Hanlon Improve. Assoc.
30. Holy Nativity
31. KMW/Threshold
32. Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle
33. Peoples Homesteading
34. Sandtown Harlem Park Master Plan
35. Station North Tool Library

* Citywide

Equity in housing and community development must begin with our acknowledgement that the history of slavery and institutional racism is undeniably woven into the fabric of present conditions.

Equitable community development requires working purposefully to address these long-standing, race-based barriers that have devastated neighborhoods, concentrated poverty and created an affordable housing crises.

This means achieving economically stable, thriving, mixed-income communities while at the same time promoting racial equity, minimizing displacement, and maintaining the culture and character of our neighborhoods. To achieve these ends DHCD has committed to:

- Ensuring community voices are central to shaping neighborhood redevelopment;
- Minimizing the displacement that can occur with rising values;
- Supporting existing homeowners and residents to help them stay in their homes;
- Maximizing Baltimoreans' access to jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities created by reinvestment;
- Prioritizing affordable housing in neighborhood revitalization efforts from the outset, not as an after thought; and
- Building an implementation team that represents Baltimore.

THANK YOU!



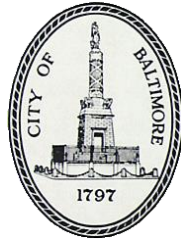
@Bmoredhcd



SB0699-EHEA-FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Mehu, Natasha

Position: FAV



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

SB 699

February 23, 2021

TO: Members of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
and the Budget & Tax Committee

FROM: Natasha Mehu, Director of Government Relations

RE: Senate Bill 699 - Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative Program Fund

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chairs Pinsky and Guzzone, Vice Chairs Kagan and Rosapepe, and Members of the Committees, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 699.

SB 699 requires that the Governor appropriate \$12 million in Fiscal Years 2022-2026 to support the Baltimore Regional Neighborhood (BRNI) program. The proposed Fiscal Year 2022 budget currently allocated \$12 million, which includes \$750,000 to support grantees' operating costs associated with a specific capital project.

The BRNI program was established in 2013 to spur reinvestment in older communities that had an established and successful revitalization strategy. The initial BRNI designated communities consisted of; Central Baltimore Partnership, Southeast, Healthy Neighborhoods, and the Dundalk Renaissance Corporation and an appropriation of \$3 million, which included \$750,000 in critically needed operating support. Over the course of its eight (8) years of implementation, the BRNI program now invests \$12 million, still including \$750,000 in operating support in 19 designated communities.

BRNI funds are critical to supporting Mayor Scott's equity agenda and the City's Community Development Framework. State investment signals confidence in projects and communities that may otherwise be overlooked and spurs additional public and private investment including New Market and Historic Tax Credits along with private debt and equity. BRNI funds are flexible, and may be used for grants, loans, and other investment vehicles while allowing consideration of credit enhancement, a flexibility that is unique and allows the funds to be structured to the highest and best use for the project.

A number of projects relied on State Funds to leverage additional resources including; the Parkway Theater in Station North (Central Baltimore Partnership), Paul's Place Commercial Kitchen in Washington Village (Southwest Partnership), Bakers View Homeownership in Druid Heights, (Druid Heights CDC), Liberty Heights Gateway Neighborhoods (Healthy Neighborhoods), Tench Tilghman Elementary/Middle Playground in CARE (Southeast CDC), Library Square in McElderry Park (Southeast CDC), and three transformative initiatives in Broadway East

These funds support Baltimore City's Vacants to Value initiative by reducing the City's vacant property inventory, redeveloping vacant buildings, creating new retail opportunities, improving open space and creating livable and sustainable neighborhoods.

BRNI's \$12 million annual appropriation, supports residential, community, and business endeavors by fostering a comprehensive and integrated community development strategy. The program's focus on community-based revitalization strategies and a robust community participation process allows for cross-jurisdictional development within the region.

Because of BRNI, the City's disinvested neighborhoods and corridors are slowly becoming communities of choice, building value and hope for their legacy residents, creating new businesses and local jobs, and attracting new residents who are eager to live in formerly vacant and dilapidated homes. They are all still fragile, and without the ongoing predictable funding that BRNI provides we will lose the gains that have been made. We urge your continuing support for the region's neighborhoods and to continue building an equitable community development platform.

In closing, based on the BRNI programs strong track record, the BCA believes it is tested and worthy of an extension by the General Assembly.

We respectfully request a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 699.

SB 699 BRNI (McCray) EHEA and B&T 2.23.21.pdf

Uploaded by: Wilkins, Barbara

Position: INFO

LARRY HOGAN
Governor

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
Lieutenant Governor



DAVID R. BRINKLEY
Secretary

MARC L. NICOLE
Deputy Secretary

SENATE BILL 699 Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative Program Fund (S. Smith)

STATEMENT OF INFORMATION

DATE: February 23, 2021

COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs and Senate Budget & Taxation

SUMMARY OF BILL: SB 699 extends the \$12 million mandated capital appropriation for the Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative Program (BRNI) from FY 2022 to FY 2026.

EXPLANATION: The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) analyzes all capital programs annually to determine the status of each project and the extent to which funding is needed. Despite the scheduled FY 2022 termination of the current mandate, the Administration has programmed \$3 million in ongoing funding for BRNI throughout the five year (FY 2023 - FY 2026) Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Imposing a mandate unnecessarily limits flexibility in the capital budget to examine project schedules. DBM will analyze this program, as it does all programs, on a yearly basis to determine funding need and availability.

BRNI Funding History

FY 2015	\$1,680,000	
FY 2016	\$3,000,000	
FY 2017	\$2,861,199	
FY 2018	\$8,000,000	
FY 2019	\$8,000,000	
FY 2020	\$7,600,000	*\$12,000,000, as enacted; \$4,400,000 unused and later reverted
FY 2021	\$12,000,000	
TOTAL	\$55,141,199	

**For additional information, contact Barbara Wilkins at
(410) 260-6371 or barbara.wilkins1@maryland.gov**