



Housing Initiative Partnership, Inc.

30+ YEARS of Housing Security | Financial Stability | Community Success

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Ben Barnes
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
Maryland General Assembly

RE: House Bill 838 – IN FAVOR

Dear Chair Barnes:

Housing Initiative Partnership, a nonprofit housing developer and counseling agency, encourages the Committee to vote in favor of House Bill 838 which would create a funding source for the Community Development Fund, which was established by legislation back in 2018 but without a source of funding. The Senate Budget and Tax Committee recently passed companion bill SB643 with an amendment dedicating funding for four years.

Housing Initiative Partnership, Inc. (HIP) develops innovative affordable housing, revitalizes neighborhoods, and equips people to achieve their housing and financial goals. Our vision is that every person lives in high-quality affordable housing in a thriving community. We are based in Hyattsville and serve predominantly Prince George's and Montgomery Counties. HIP has long taken advantage of many of the State's affordable housing programs and has partnered with the State on housing counseling delivery, most recently assisting tenants applying for emergency rent and homeowners at risk of losing their homes to foreclosure. While we enjoy strong support from the State for specific programs and affordable housing development, we lack consistent sources of core operating support. That is why the Community Development Fund is so important to our mission.

Most recently, HIP celebrated completing of its 100th home it developed for sale to a low-income first-time homebuyer. We are general partner of a \$30 million affordable senior apartment community in Prince George's County, now under construction. And in FY 2022, we helped 323 prospective home buyers prepare for homeownership, counseled 1,764 renters at risk of eviction, and provided intensive case management to 69 households moving out of homelessness.

HIP relies on a patchwork quilt of over 40 funding sources to support its programming. The Community Development Fund would provide a reliable source of multiyear funding to allow us to plan longer-term for our programs. Please consider voting HB 838 out of committee to allow community development organizations around the State meet their missions.

Sincerely,

Maryann Dillon
Executive Director



Housing Initiative Partnership, Inc. | 6525 Belcrest Rd., Ste. 555 | Hyattsville, MD 20782

p: (301) 699-3835 | f: (301) 699-8184 | www.HIPhomes.org