



SB643 – Housing – Community Development Fund Program Act - Funding

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

APRIL 4, 2023

Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Barnes and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

Housing Options & Planning Enterprises, Inc. (H.O.P.E.) urges this committee to vote a favorable report for **SB632 – Housing – Community Development Fund Program Act - Funding**

SB643 creates a permanent funding source for the Community Development Fund which was created in 2018. The funding is critical operating dollars for community-based organizations to use for affordable housing, neighborhood and commercial revitalization, housing and financial counseling, small business development, community services, and more.

We are seeking \$5 million from the Unclaimed Property Fund after usual disbursements have been made.

H.O.P.E. is a HUD-approved housing counseling agency, serving Baltimore City, Charles, and Prince George's Counties. We have done substantial façade and home rehabilitation to assist our seniors to age-in-place and assist low-to-moderate households with necessary repairs. The demand is overwhelming for these individuals in need of the essential repairs to the older stock homes in these communities. Housing counseling services including Foreclosure Prevention, Housing Assistance Fund Counseling, Financial Counseling are other critical services we provide to the community.

Nonprofits require working money to maintain their daily operations, known as general operating support. Payroll and rent are two fundamental operational requirements that an organization can only meet if it has enough working capital.

Please vote a favorable report for SB643.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna Hurley, CEO