



Communities Planning and Housing Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 4512
Baltimore MD 21212
www.cphamd.org

Testimony

SB643 – Housing – Community Development Fund Program Act - Funding

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

APRIL 4, 2023

Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Barnes and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

Communities Planning and Housing Association, Inc. (CPHA) 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.

Communities Planning and Housing Association, Inc. (Formerly known as Citizens Planning and Housing Association, Inc.) (CPHA) is an eighty-two (82) year-old, 501-C3 community engagement nonprofit organization headquartered in Baltimore City focusing on Baltimore City/Baltimore Region communities of place (neighborhood and community associations) and interest (various populations and groups). CPHA is especially interested in working with marginalized populations, immigrants, and BIPOC communities. CPHA is highly interested in multiculturalism.



CPHA is heavily involved in community engagement and organizing work. CPHA has a part-time Executive Director, contracted bookkeeper, contracted digital organizer, and two community engagement interns (one paid and one receiving college credit).

CPHA fully engages in three projects, conducting a city-wide community, neighborhood, and tenant association community needs assessment, acts as one of the leaders of Baltimore's Inclusionary Housing Coalition, and is planning the Activate Your Inner Citizens Conference for Baltimore City neighborhoods and community stakeholders. We are identifying operating funds to engage, train and make effective change.

CPHA when fully funded has created programs and organizations such as the Housing Authority of Baltimore City, Healthy Homes, Live Baltimore, Maryland's first fair housing organization, Baltimore Neighborhood Indicator Alliance. CPHA ceased operations in 2017 due to insufficient funds and recently reopened in 2021. CPHA has had a positive impact on Baltimore. However, the need for operating funds could once again jeopardize the organization's future, directly impacting the community. Our community engagement with community associations, neighborhoods, tenants (communities of place), and communities of interest is critical to be the effective change everyone in Baltimore, the region, and the state wants to see. We need this funding to continue to operate and expand our services.

Please vote a favorable report for SB643.

Respectfully Submitted:

Charmeda D. McCreedy

Charmeda "Char" McCreedy
Executive Director
Communities Planning and Housing Association