



8025 Liberty Road  
Windsor Mill, MD 21244  
410-496-1214 ext. 201  
sjackson@diversifiedhousing.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:

*Diversified Housing Development, Inc.* urges this committee to vote a favorable report for **SB643 – 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.

Diversified Housing is a nonprofit housing organization that assists families with purchasing their first home as well as families that are facing foreclosure. We also provide home weatherization services and provide housing acquisition and rehabilitation for low to moderate income families. We are currently finding it increasingly more difficult to acquire operating funds for the operation of our organization. Over the past few years, we have seen funding continue to decline. The ability to be able to access a funding pool such as the Community Development Fund would allow many organizations to continue to service our communities at a level in which we can be effective.

General operating support is the working capital nonprofits need to sustain their day-to-day operations. A lack of working capital can prevent organizations from meeting basic operational needs, like payroll and rent. In the last three years, we have lost staff and struggled to keep up with inflation....

Please vote a favorable report for SB643.

Respectfully Submitted:

Shavaugn Jackson

Executive Director