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**BILL NO.:**            **SB 643**

**TITLE:**                Housing - Community Development Program Act – Funding

**SPONSOR:**            Senator McCray

**COMMITTEE:**        Budget and Taxation

**POSITION:**          **SUPPORT**

**DATE:**                March 8, 2023

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 643 – Housing – Community Development Program Act – Funding. This legislation would allocate \$5 million annually to the Community Development Program.

The Community Development Program provides financial assistance to community development projects and community development organizations to provide and support housing initiatives for residents to find and maintain housing. The COVID pandemic exacerbated the already growing housing insecurity crisis, and no one local jurisdiction can bear the fiscal burden alone.

SB 643 expands a critical tool for ensuring that all residents in need receive the resources necessary to find and maintain housing. Using this funding, the Program will provide and support affordable housing, neighborhood revitalization for residential and commercial areas, housing counseling, financial counseling, and foreclosure prevention, community organizing, small business development, community services, and any other community development purpose.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 643. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at [jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov).