

Carrington 2024 Testimony SB418 Seed Community Dev

Uploaded by: Darrell Carrington

Position: FAV



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SB418 – Seed Community Development Anchor Institution Fund – Alterations

FAVORABLE

Carrington & Associates, LLC, requests Carrington & Associates, LLC expresses robust support for Senate Bill 418, presented by Senator Watson, which proposes alterations to the Seed Community Development Anchor Institution Fund within the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). The envisioned amendments aim to extend the fund's purpose and eligible use to include the provision of grants and loans for anchor institutions engaged in community projects within sustainable communities across the State of Maryland. This expansion aligns with our firms' commitment to fostering community development and addressing the evolving needs of communities throughout our great state.

The bill's proposed modification of the definition of "anchor institution" is particularly noteworthy. By encompassing departments, foundations, and other entities of institutions of higher education and hospital institutions in the State, the bill recognizes the diverse entities that play pivotal roles in community development. This broadened definition underscores a comprehensive understanding of the varied ways in which anchor institutions contribute to the well-being of our communities.

We appreciate the thoughtful repeal of the requirement that matching funds be exclusively from private sources. This adjustment enhances accessibility, enabling a broader range of entities to apply for funding. As a result, we anticipate a more inclusive and dynamic pool of applicants, fostering innovation and diversity in community development projects.

Carrington & Associates is confident that the proposed alterations to the Seed Community Development Anchor Institution Fund will have a positive impact on community development initiatives in sustainable communities throughout the State. These modifications align with our values and commitment to supporting initiatives that enhance the well-being and prosperity of Maryland's communities.

For the foregoing reasons, we respectfully ask for your favorable report for SB418.

If you would like additional information and/or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Darrell Carrington, Managing Director, darrell.carrington@verizon.net or 732-763-7398 cellphone.

SB418 Seed Community Development Anchor Institutio

Uploaded by: Jim Hughes

Position: FAV

Testimony in support of SB 418 – Seed Community Development Anchor

**Institution Fund – Alterations Before the Senate Education, Energy and the
Environment Committee**

February 8, 2024

The University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), offers this letter in support of SB418. UMB is the state's academic medical center campus with six professional schools, located in Baltimore City's west side. We have nearly 6,700 students and over 7,000 employees. As an anchor institution, UMB is committed to supporting and improving the community in which our historic campus sits. We have successfully worked with partners on SEED grant applications previously and found this to be an impactful program that benefits UMB, the City and our community.

Modifying the matching component to allow for additional sources of match in SB418 demonstrates Maryland's commitment to support these critical projects while encouraging investment in the state and Baltimore City. The additional modification would allow the UMB Foundation to be a qualified applicant which would further enable our ability to leverage funding and support revitalization. The proposed modifications would enable UMB to pursue worthwhile projects in Baltimore City that would not be feasible with the current regulations. We encourage you to consider a favorable vote on SB418.

James L Hughes, MBA
Chief Enterprise and Economic Development Officer and Senior Vice President
University of Maryland, Baltimore
President, University of Maryland, Baltimore Foundation, Inc.
President, University of Maryland BioPark

BaltimoreCounty_FAV_SB0418.pdf

Uploaded by: John Olszewski

Position: FAV



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

JENNIFER AIOSA
Director of Government Affairs

AMANDA KONTZ CARR
Legislative Officer

WILLIAM J. THORNE
Legislative Associate

BILL NO.: **SB 418**

TITLE: **Seed Community Development Anchor Institution Fund –
Alterations**

SPONSOR: **Senator Watson**

COMMITTEE: **Education, Energy, and the Environment**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: **February 8, 2024**

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 418 – Seed Community Development Anchor Institution Fund – Alterations. This legislation expands the definition of anchor institutions eligible for the funds to include “Departments, Foundations, and other entities of the institution” in reference to both higher education institutions and hospitals. Furthermore, this legislation would eliminate the need for matching funds to originate from private sources and enables the use of anchor institution funds in sustainable communities in addition to blighted areas.

SB 418 would increase the flexibility in which arms of an anchor institution can apply for and use the fund. Eliminating the mandate of private matching funds further increases flexibility for where the anchor fund can be used. This will allow blighted areas that lack private funding, and are intended to benefit from the fund, to receive anchor institution funding. The legislation would enable the use of the fund by anchor institutions in state-designated sustainable communities, which expands the eligible areas for investment substantially by lowering the threshold from “blighted” to areas in decline. Baltimore County has identified several areas that would benefit from these changes, including in Rosedale, Essex, Dundalk, East Towson, Randallstown, and Arbutus, all areas that depend on anchor institutions and have needs for additional anchor institution investment.

Accordingly, Baltimore County urges a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 418. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.

SB418_DHCD_SUPPORT.pdf

Uploaded by: Kevin Baynes

Position: FAV



WES MOORE
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ARUNA MILLER
Lt. Governor
JACOB R. DAY
Secretary
JULIA GLANZ
Deputy Secretary

DATE: February 8, 2024
BILL NO.: Senate Bill 418
TITLE: Seed Community Development Anchor Institution Fund – Alterations
COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Letter of Support

Description of Bill:

Senate Bill 418 makes technical changes to the Seed Community Development Anchor Institution Fund. The proposed legislation provides consistency with other State Revitalization Programs and improves program administration and efficacy. Specific changes proposed in the bill include:

1. Expanding geographic targeting to include designated Sustainable Community areas of the State
2. Expanding the definition of eligible applicants to include hospital and university foundations, affiliates, and departments.
3. Eliminating private matching funds requirement

Background and Analysis:

The Seed Community Development Anchor Institution Fund was established by HB 1400 in the 2016 legislative session. The purpose of the Fund is to provide grants and loans to anchor institutions for community development projects in “blighted areas of the state” that need reinvestment. The program has been successful in building partnerships with anchor institutions – defined as hospitals and institutions of higher education – to support community development projects. However, there are requirements in the current statute, that may present barriers for some projects and make the program difficult to administer.

Expanding the definition of eligible geography to include designated Sustainable Communities would give the program more flexibility to support community development projects statewide, consistent with other Maryland State Revitalization Programs (SRP). It would also allow Seed to be used more effectively for community development projects in suburban and rural communities

Expanding the definition of eligible applicants to include hospital and university affiliates and subsidiaries will ease administration for applicants. These foundations and affiliate organizations are the ones who are traditionally tasked with the application and management of grants, rather than the institution itself.

A third area of concern is the private matching funds requirement. This represents a barrier for many institutional applicants that receive most of their support from local, state, and federal programs, rather than private sources. For this reason, it is proposed that the private matching funds requirement be eliminated. Applicants would continue to be required to demonstrate matching funds, but this change grants them greater flexibility by allowing the source of matching funds to be either private or public.

DHCD Position

The Department of Housing and Community Development respectfully requests a **favorable** report on SB 418.



Senate Bill 418-Seed Community Development Anchor

Uploaded by: Laurel Freedman

Position: FAV



Date: Feb. 8th, 2024

To: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and Education, Energy and Environment Committee

Reference: Senate Bill 418-Seed Community Development Anchor Institution Fund-Alterations

Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee Member,

On behalf of LifeBridge Health, we appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and urge your favorable support on Senate Bill 481. LifeBridge Health is a regional health system comprising Sinai Hospital of Baltimore, an independent academic medical center; Levindale Hebrew Geriatric Center and Hospital in Baltimore; Northwest Hospital, a community hospital in Baltimore County; Carroll Hospital, a sole community hospital in Carroll County; Grace Medical Center (formerly Bon Secours Hospital), a freestanding medical facility in West Baltimore; and Center for Hope a center of excellence focused on providing hope and services for trauma survivors in Baltimore City.

Health care facilities serve as anchor institutions for which the Seed program requires to support community revitalization and development. Sinai Hospital of Baltimore, near Pimlico Racecourse, has facilitated capital improvements along the nearby east-west Belvedere Avenue corridor, bordering our facility and the track. Northwest Hospital invested in improvements along Old Court and Liberty Roads, partnering with Baltimore County and the State to enhance streetscaping. Carroll Hospital, invested in rural enhancements for walkability with sidewalks and walking paths to bring activity and needed revitalization for safe, healthy outdoor access.

Seed funding is an important tool to support the many community organizations working in partnership with our hospitals to support the residents in the communities we jointly serve. In the past funding cycle, we were unable to partner with at least three organizations who did not meet the matching fund requirements that are currently in the policy. These organizations are addressing many of the social determinants of health such as housing and food access that allow our residents to thrive. Removal of the need for matching funds through private sources would provide equitable access to smaller and minority led organizations who historically have not had access to private philanthropy and afford them more opportunities to support the communities in which they are so deeply entrenched.

Other examples that demonstrate the value of SEED funding include, LifeBridge funding to support Bon Secours Community Works, our housing partner near Grace Medical Center, to renovate vacant rowhomes that will be available for homeownership for residents with 60% AMI. Sinai Hospital recently opened the Center for Hope, our comprehensive violence intervention and prevention center of excellence, on our parcel adjacent to Pimlico Racecourse. The Center for Hope tackles the entrenched violence issues plaguing our communities, and while the therapeutic and medical services provided to victims of trauma are the key focus of the Center, violence intervention and prevention activity will positively impact community and economic development by enhancing public safety.

CARE BRAVELY

The Center received Seed funds and epitomizes the type of development Seed is intended to drive. Our improvements, along with City and State investments, further catalyze redevelopment in our nearby communities - indeed, the essence of the Seed Fund.

Hospital Anchor Role: Seed builds on anchors' relationship with their nearby communities. Hospitals operating under a global budget as part of the Maryland All-Payor system address social determinants of health – good schools, safe neighborhoods, effective transportation, decent housing, and a green, healthy environment, among others. These factors impact our communities' health, and under a population health model, fit squarely into our objectives. Broader access to the Seed Community Anchor Institution Fund is critical to the projects that will greatly enhance our communities and the health of our residents.

For all the above stated reasons, we request a Favorable report on SB-418.

For more information, please contact:

Laurel Freedman

Director, Community Development

LifeBridge Health | Community Development

lfreedman@lifebridgehealth.org

Jennifer Witten, M.B.A.

Vice President, Government Relations & Community Development

jwitten2@lifebridgedhealth.org

Mobile: 505-688-3495