



## **Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2026**

### **Letter of Support for Economic Action Maryland Fund's SOAR Program**

**March 4, 2026**

The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair  
Budget and Taxation  
3 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
Cc: Members of the Committee

Chair Guzzone and members of the committee,

On behalf of the following financial services, housing, community development, older adult, and legal service organizations, we are pleased to express our support for Economic Action Maryland Fund's Securing Older Adult Resources (SOAR) program. Our organizations share SOAR's commitment to helping older adults access financial relief programs, maintain housing stability, and age in place with dignity.

Through our work, we have seen firsthand the challenges older adults face in navigating financial benefits, preventing foreclosure, and securing critical tax credits. SOAR has been an invaluable resource, providing property tax credit assistance, financial counseling, and consumer education to help older adults achieve long-term financial security.

Since its establishment in 2019, the SOAR program has returned over \$6,700,000 in tax credits to low-income homeowners and tenants. SOAR does not turn away other qualified applicants but

focuses on serving older adults, particularly high-touch older adults who need personal support gathering their documents and applying for the tax credits and benefits. Since its inception, SOAR has achieved a historical ROI of \$1 : \$5.51, meaning that every dollar invested has generated over five dollars in financial relief.

SOAR is the only organization in Maryland that assists renters, particularly low-income renters and families with disabilities in applying for the Renters Tax Credit. In 2025, SOAR screened 825 households, helping older adults recapture \$902,128 in anticipated Homeowners and Renters credits. SOAR staff also held 30 workshops reaching 300 participants and reached another 130 through tabling at 11 events.

We are proud to collaborate with SOAR to serve older adults. We support their efforts to expand outreach across the state, strengthen services, and ensure continued financial security for older Marylanders. We support their new expansion into screening and assisting with hospital financial and energy assistance and new efforts to ensure both current and new clients maintain their eligibility for SNAP and Medicaid by assisting with verification for eligibility requirements.

We strongly endorse Economic Action Maryland Fund's request for funding to sustain and grow the SOAR program. Continued investment in these services is essential to meeting the financial needs of older adults and ensuring they remain financially stable and housed.

Sincerely,

Arkia Wade, Executive Director, Neighborhood Companions Inc

Claudia Wilson Randall, Executive Director, Community Development Network of Maryland

John Kern, Director of Programs, The SOS Fund

Johnny Spruill, Citizen

Jordan Hebron, Associate Director of Elder Services, Civic Works Inc.

Margaret Henn, Deputy Director, Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service

Meredith L. Girard, Esq., Executive Director, Shore Legal Access, Inc.

Ricarra Jones, Director, 1199 SEIU

Wilistine Dargan, Executive Director, St. Mary's Outreach Center