

HOUSE BILL 510

C9

4lr1669

By: **Delegate Stewart**

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2024

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Business Facade Improvement Program – Eligible Funding Recipients**

3 FOR the purpose of expanding the eligible recipients of funding provided by the
4 Department of Housing and Community Development under the Business Facade
5 Improvement Program to include certain community development organizations;
6 and generally relating to the Business Facade Improvement Program.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Housing and Community Development
9 Section 6–1101 and 6–1102
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
13 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article – Housing and Community Development**

15 6–1101.

16 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

17 (b) **“COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION” MEANS AN ENTITY THAT**
18 **MEETS THE QUALIFICATIONS OF § 6–203 OF THIS TITLE.**

19 (C) “Program” means the Business Facade Improvement Program.

20 [(c)] (D) “Qualified business” means a business that:

21 (1) is located in a sustainable community; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) plans to improve the outside appearance of the business's building or
2 facility.

3 [(d)] (E) "Sustainable community" means an area designated as a sustainable
4 community under § 6-205 of this title.
5 6-1102.

6 (a) There is a Business Facade Improvement Program in the Department.

7 (b) The purpose of the Program is to assist qualified businesses with improving
8 the outside appearance of the businesses' buildings and facilities.

9 (c) (1) The Department shall distribute funds from the Program to:

10 (I) political subdivisions that:

11 [(i)] 1. have at least one sustainable community; and

12 [(ii)] 2. apply for the funds; AND

13 (II) **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS THAT:**

14 1. **SERVE AT LEAST ONE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY; AND**

15 2. **APPLY FOR THE FUNDS.**

16 (2) The Department shall develop:

17 (i) an application process for [political subdivisions] **APPLICANTS**
18 seeking to participate in the Program; and

19 (ii) criteria for:

20 1. rating political subdivisions **AND COMMUNITY**
21 **DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS** that apply for funds; and

22 2. awarding funds to political subdivisions **AND**
23 **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS.**

24 (d) (1) Each [political subdivision] **APPLICANT** that receives funds under
25 subsection (c) of this section shall distribute grants to qualified businesses that apply for a
26 grant.

1 (2) Each political subdivision **AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**
2 **ORGANIZATION** shall develop:

3 (i) a grant application process for qualified businesses seeking to
4 participate in the Program; and

5 (ii) criteria for:

6 1. rating qualified businesses that apply for grants; and

7 2. awarding grants to qualified businesses.

8 (e) For fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Governor shall include
9 in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$5,000,000 to the Program.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
11 1, 2024.