

Proposed 2017 Legislative Agenda

Legislation to Create/Increase Funding

Community Development Fund: Creating a permanent funding source for community development. Eligible uses for the fund include affordable housing, neighborhood revitalization, housing counseling, small business development and more. This is flexible funding that would include funding for both capital and operating projects and activities.

Expanding the Community Investment Tax Credit Program: Expand the Community Investment Tax Credit Program from \$1.75 million to \$3.5 million. Nonprofit organizations apply to Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development; if awarded an allocation the organization then is able to provide donors who give \$500 or above a state income tax credit equal to 50% of the donation.

Blighted Properties

Land Bank Reforms: Make changes to the current Land Bank law including enabling jurisdictions to create Land Banks for blight elimination purposes. The legislation would also include enabling language for jurisdictions to release liens and clear title of vacant properties.

Blighted Properties: Legislation is being proposed that would assist jurisdictions with eliminating blight by defining blighted properties, reconfiguring the Foreclosed Property Registry, and more. Discussions at the Environment and Transportation Committee Working Groups commenced over the summer.

Tax Sale Reform: Reform the tax sale system to reduce the number of families who become victims of tax sale and streamlining the process to enable jurisdictions to capture needed revenues. The legislation will apply to the Baltimore City tax sale system; however other jurisdictions may choose to adopt the same system.

Housing Counseling

Maryland Housing Counseling Fund: This legislation would increase the fee filed by banks that goes into the Maryland Housing Counseling fund from \$300 to \$500 per foreclosure.

Maryland Mortgage Program: This legislation would standardize the Homeownership Counseling requirement for participation in the Maryland Mortgage Program and allow the homebuyer certificates to be portable between jurisdictions.

Notice of a postponement or cancelation of foreclosure sale: Require banks to provide a notice to the family about the postponement or cancelation of the foreclosure sale.

HAMP: The federal Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP) is ending in December. Conversations are ongoing as to whether Maryland should have a similar program.



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Affordable Housing

HOME Act: This legislation includes “source of income” as a protected class in the Maryland Fair Housing Act, making it illegal to deny someone housing based on source of income only.

Common Ownership Communities

Fee Delinquencies: Conversations ongoing to address this issue by providing an insurance to common ownership communities or a loan fund for them to cover costs. Additional legislation includes changing the definition of “good standing”, creating a system for helping residents who fall behind on their fees, and a registry of common ownership communities in the state.

Property Managers

Creating a Property Managers registry: Create a registry for property management companies including the listing of properties they manage. This is a precursor to 2018 legislation to require licensing of property managers.

Other Legislation

Creation of the 2 Generation Anti-poverty work. This is pilot legislation implementing the 2G strategy in various counties. This system considers the whole family and environment they are in when providing services.

Rural Community and Economic Development: CDN will support efforts to strengthen community and economic development in the rural areas.

Expansion of EITC: Support efforts to stabilize families. The expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit will help families be able to afford basic needs for their children.