

Advocacy

Maryland Jewish
DAY 2026



BUDGET REQUESTS FOR THE BALTIMORE JEWISH COMMUNITY

CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST

University of Baltimore's Purchase of the Former Associated Headquarters – Including CIP in FY27 - \$7.6 Million

(101 Mt. Royal Avenue, District 40)

In August of 2024, University of Baltimore entered into a “rent to own” contract with The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore for its former headquarters at 101 Mt. Royal Avenue. This was part of The Associated’s master plan to move its headquarters up to the JCC campus on 5700 Park Heights Avenue. UB – by shifting its administration headquarters and other services into The Associated’s former building – was able to provide classroom space for Baltimore City College during the high school’s building renovation. Under the contract, UB is paying escalating rent out of its operating dollars, scheduled to increase to \$720,000 in FY27, until the purchase price is funded by the state capital budget. In the meantime, The Associated remains responsible for maintenance and utilities costs at the building, and it must pay interest on the bridge loan that helped finance the 5700 Park Heights Avenue project until it receives the purchase price from UB. The purchase price had been in the Maryland CIP for FY28, but the Governor's proposed FY27 budget removes this purchase from the future CIP altogether to free up funds for other projects. By including this project in the FY27 capital budget, critical operating dollar savings will be achieved by both The Associated and UB.

LEGISLATIVE BOND INITIATIVES

Renovations of CHAI's Fallstaff Property - \$475,000

(Baltimore City, District 41)

There are critical capital repairs required at CHAI's Fallstaff Apartments, a 16-unit affordable community serving low-income families, people with disabilities, and a formerly homeless household. Condensation from inadequate insulation has caused significant wall and ceiling deterioration in all units, requiring new drywall, and failing shower pans in 28 bathrooms are causing leaks and require full replacement. These improvements are necessary to protect resident health and ensure the long-term preservation of affordable housing on the property.

OPERATING BUDGET REQUEST

Schools and Childcare Centers at Risk of Hate Crimes Grant Program

(\$5 Million, an increase of \$2 Million)

We are requesting that the Center's grant increase by \$2 million for a total of \$5 million for FY27. We are requesting this increase due to several factors. According to the Center, they have received over \$6 million in requests for funding each year for the past two years and less than half of that has been able to be funded. Secondly, due to federal budget uncertainty and changes to the Federal Nonprofit Security Grant,

most Jewish institutions that have received funding since the Grant's inception in 2005 will likely not receive funds again in the future. This is because of specific changes in the awarding system, which now favor those who have never received funding. To ensure the continued safety of our children, we request this increase.

**Protecting Against Hate Crimes Grant Program
(*\$10 Million Level Funding*)**

The Protecting Against Hate Crimes Grant (PAHC) in the Governor's budget was established in FY2020 because of the unfortunate rise in hate bias incidents in Maryland and throughout the country. These grants continue to be used for infrastructure upgrades and security personnel for institutions deemed at-risk for hate crimes or attacks. In 2023, SB840/HB1243 codified this budget language to ensure the \$5 million would always be in the budget to help provide funding for security enhancements. We are grateful that Governor Moore increased the funding for this grant program to \$10 Million based on increased needs in FY26. The Governor has already announced his commitment to maintaining level funding of \$10 Million for FY27, and we hope that the legislature will keep this funding as they navigate a particularly difficult budget year.

**Maryland Israel Development Center (MIDC)
(*\$300,000 Level Funded*)**

The Maryland/Israel Development Center is a nonprofit organization that promotes bilateral trade and economic development between Maryland and Israel. Established in 1992, the MIDC is a "public private partnership" of the Maryland Department of Commerce, Israel's Ministry of Economy and Trade, and The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore. MIDC does not give any funding directly to companies but rather focuses on attracting Israeli startups and established companies and providing them a 'soft landing' in Maryland and retaining and growing them. There are currently 45 Israeli companies in Maryland. These companies generate hundreds of jobs and millions of dollars in revenue for Maryland. Most of these companies are in life sciences (e.g. medical devices, pharmaceuticals, AI-driven platforms, etc.). In 2023, The Office of the Comptroller of Maryland signed an agreement with IVIX, an Israeli company that assists tax authorities in closing the tax gap and increase tax collection in scale. Powered by AI and advanced algorithms, the IVIX platform collects and enriches publicly available business activity data to illuminate tax evasion and noncompliance.

**Maintaining Level Funding for Safety Net Programs
(*Childcare Subsidies, Medicaid, SNAP, and TANF*)**

Rooted in Jewish values of speaking up, judging righteously, championing the poor and the needy (Proverbs 31:9), we must ensure that all safety net programs currently established across the state remain fully funded and functional, regardless of impacts made at the federal level. These include childcare subsidies, Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). While the reasons each Marylander falls into poverty are personal and their needs may vary, there are common factors that many populations and communities face collectively. As such, we will also support legislative and budget proposals that help address the underlying causes of poverty, such as insufficient wages, lack of affordable housing, inadequate health care, and systemic discrimination. It is imperative that we ensure the safety, stability, and well-being of our most vulnerable residents across the state.