



Maryland  
**Board of Public Works**  
Public Comments  
**Meeting Date: January 28, 2028**

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<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Position</u>
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### **Agenda : Department of General Services (2)**

1-CGL	Leah	Paley	Support
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The Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) respectfully requests that the Department of General Services Office of State Procurement fund DGS Item 24-406 in full (\$160,000) to support the acquisition, planning, design, construction, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping of the Anne Arundel County Food Bank. The AACFB provides essential nutrition to families in need but also addresses food justice issues. Often, low-income families do not have access to fresh produce and lean meats, relying instead on less healthy options that are shelf-stable but low in nutritional value and high in sodium and fat. Poor health outcomes, such as heart disease and diabetes, are strongly correlated with such diets. By providing fresh options to the people we serve, the AACFB is helping to ensure healthier outcomes. Families with access to fresh foods can prepare them according to their preferences and traditions, nourishing both body and spirit. AACFB has no membership, processing, or delivery fees and has served as the only county-wide food bank in Anne Arundel since 1986. In FY 2025 (our most recent complete fiscal year, July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025), AACFB distributed more than 4.3 million pounds of food and necessities, including 1,279,344 pounds of produce and 730,745 pounds of proteins, through our 77 Network Partners and our direct service Mobile Pantry Program. The AACFB met 570,039 service requests from our neighbors. In FY25, on average, Food Bank operations supported 48,000 service instances per month. In the first half of FY2026, we averaged more than 50,000 each month. In addition to supplemental food, the AACFB also provides supplies to meet the specific needs of babies (diapers and wipes) and seniors (incontinence supplies and nutritional beverages. Among the many ways the Anne Arundel County Food Bank acquires resources for distribution is by partnering with local retail stores to pick up soon-to-expire, seasonal change-out, and overstock items. In FY2025, the Anne Arundel County Food Bank acquired and distributed more than one million pounds of food and non-food items through these efforts. In 2004, with the shuttering of the Crownsville State Hospital, the Anne Arundel County Food Bank moved to its current location on the campus, a 32,000-square-foot structure that combines a hospital storage building completed in 1951 and the hospital's central kitchen completed in 1957. The building, as it exists today, was never designed for use as a warehouse to manage the large quantities of resources required by a food bank, and it is now, after 70 years, also in significant disrepair. Although stopgap measures have been taken over the past 30 years to

slow the decline and maintain habitability, these interventions have become increasingly costly and can never achieve the changes necessary to meet the full functionality required of a modern, efficient food bank serving county-wide needs. With this in mind, the Anne Arundel County Food Bank is undertaking the development of a new building on a different parcel of land within the boundaries of the now-named Crownsville Hospital Memorial Park. This land is being transferred from the Anne Arundel County Government to the Anne Arundel County Food Bank at no cost. The majority of the \$160,000 (\$109,766.80) requested in DGS Item 24-406 will cover the purchase of a 2024 Isuzu refrigerated truck used to pick up food and other essential items from our 35 retail store partners. The Anne Arundel County Food Bank currently makes more than 60 pickups every week. The remaining \$50,233.20 will be used to cover a portion of the costs incurred during the planning and design phase for the new Anne Arundel County Food Bank facility, including phase one of an Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) and the initial services of an owner's representative to oversee all aspects of this multi-year construction project.

Thank you for your consideration. Leah Paley

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21-CGL

Jeanne

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Support

Thank you for the opportunity to apply for funding in support of beautiful Steiner House in Frederick, Maryland. The Frederick Historic District was significant as a regional market and industrial center. The Steiner House, originally built in 1807, was the home of Stephen Steiner, who served as a justice to the Levy Court, a ward council member, and an industrial leader. This historic landmark currently serves as the FWCC offices and community space. In 1962, to prevent the property from being demolished and turned into a gas station, the FWCC purchased the property. For over 60 years, we have maintained the landmark charm. Uniting Frederick County women, we provide numerous services to the community and provide tours of this historic home, opening it so the community can take a walk through Frederick history. This grant will assist us with updating the electrical system in Steiner House, replacing one lintel and completing masonry repairs in basement.