

**CPHA LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
2009 General Assembly**



Uniting Communities, Inspiring Action
Since 1941

Status as of April 15, 2009

Housing and Community Revitalization

CPHA Position	Status
<p>Smart Growth Reform: Update state’s growth management laws to set clear goals and benchmarks and to require local governments to plan for adequate housing supply, including affordable housing close to existing and new jobs.</p>	<p>Legislation to include goals for affordable housing planning (SB 878/HB 1116) did not pass. Legislature did approve Gov. O’Malley’s proposals to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the state’s growth visions: SB 273/HB 294, which add a housing vision that housing in Md. “provides residential options for citizens of all ages and incomes” • Require reporting on growth inside and outside priority funding areas: SB 276/HB 295. • Enable counties to establish tax increment financing (TIF) districts to support transit-oriented development: SB 274, HB 300.
<p>Community Legacy: Fund this revitalization program at \$6.5 million capital funds and \$500,000 operating funds, maintaining the level approved by the 2008 General Assembly. Maintain maximum flexibility of program in awarding grants and loans.</p>	<p>Gov. O’Malley proposed \$6.5 million capital and \$500,000 operating. The legislature approved \$4.2 million capital (same as this year’s reduced level) and \$250,000 operating funds (a \$250,000 cut from current year).</p>
<p>Neighborhood BusinessWorks: Fund this small business revitalization loan program at \$5 million, the same level approved in 2008.</p>	<p>Gov. O’Malley proposed \$4 million, and the legislature approved \$3.1 million</p>
<p>Community Investment Tax Credits: Fund this tool for nonprofit revitalization organizations at \$1 million, the same as current fiscal year.</p>	<p>\$1 million funding for this program is in statute and so is automatically funded. HB 1399 passed which enables individuals to purchase tax credits, in addition to businesses.</p>
<p>Community Parks and Playgrounds: Fund this revitalization program for walkable older communities at \$5 million, the same level as approved last year. Allow the Department of Natural Resources’ competitive grant program to decide grantees, not legislative earmarks</p>	<p>Legislature approved Governor O’Malley’s proposed \$5 million funding for FY2010.</p>

<p>Historic Tax Credit: Reauthorize this crucial revitalization tool for residential and commercial areas, and appropriate \$14.7 million for the commercial tax credit program, the same as approved by the 2008 General Assembly.</p>	<p>Gov. O'Malley proposed 5-year renewal with \$100 million in multi-year commercial credits (HB 309/SB 258), but legislature did not approve. Tax credit expires June 30, 2010 if 2010 legislature does not act. The legislature funded the commercial part of program at \$7.7 million for FY 2010.</p>
<p>Community "Standing:" Bring Maryland law in line with federal law and that of most neighboring states by giving bona fide community, environmental, and agricultural organizations the legal right, or "standing" to challenge zoning and development decisions in court.</p>	<p>The legislation (HB 1569) passed by overwhelming margins in both houses. However, the legislation was limited to environmental permits and did not include land use (zoning) decisions.</p>
<p>State Center Transit-Oriented Development Project (www.statecenter.org)</p>	<p>Bills to block Board of Public Works approval of State Center project Master Developer Agreement (SB 1066/HB 1572) failed. Budget language directs state treasurer to submit report on State Center project to legislature by May 15, with legislature to make recommendation to Board of Public Works by May 30.</p>

Public Transportation

<p>Maintain funding for transit in the Baltimore area: Maintain funding for existing bus and rail transit service, Red Line construction, and other key projects, such as the plan for expansion of the West Baltimore MARC parking area supported by the surrounding communities.</p>	<p>Maryland Department of Transportation projects will lose \$1 billion in capital funds over the next six years due to decreased revenues, in addition to the \$1.1 billion in operating cuts already scheduled. Stimulus funds replaced about \$600 million in capital funds. Stimulus funds will remove the stub of the "Highway to Nowhere" near W. Balt. MARC station as part of new parking and pre-development project. Red Line funding intact.</p>
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Drug Treatment

<p>Take Further Steps toward Drug Treatment on Request: Increase funding for substance abuse treatment through General Fund increases and/or raising the alcohol tax.</p>	<p>Treatment funding stayed fairly steady this session, with a slight increase. Legislation to increase the alcohol tax failed at the end of the session.</p>
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Open Space Preservation

<p>Fully Fund Program Open Space: Use revenue from the Program Open Space real estate transfer tax for its intended purpose.</p>	<p>Governor O'Malley's budget included full funding for Program Open Space, but \$70 million in unspent prior year funds was taken to balance budget, replaced by the ability for POS to borrow against future funds.</p>
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Regional Cooperation

- Improve **communication and coordination** among state legislators in the Baltimore metropolitan area.