

FY2016 Community Investment Tax Credit Application

Organization: Legal Aid Bureau, Inc.

CITC-2016-LAB-00077

Version Date: 07/21/2015 09:49:23

Applicant Information

Contact Name and Title: (name of individual completing and submitting application)

Organization Name: Legal Aid Bureau, Inc.

Name: Denise McCain Title:

Address: 500 East Lexington Street City: Baltimore State: Maryland

Phone: (410) 951-7688 Fax: E-mail: dmccain@mdlaborg

Please confirm that this data is correct? Yes No

Corporate Resolution/Consent of Directors: A corporate resolution demonstrating support by the Board of Directors/Trustees for the nonprofit's proposed project and application to DHCD for CITC, is required. Please upload the completed and signed resolution.

https://projectportal.dhcd.state.md.us/_Upload/8814-FY16CorporateResolution.pdf

Maryland Charitable Registration Expiration Date: DD/MM/YY. 6/30/2015

Organization's Mission:

Please select one of the following to best describe the primary mission of your organization: Services for At-Risk Populations

ATTACHMENT A

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Project Summary

Summarize the project for which you are requesting Community Investment Tax Credits. (Include information on how the project will improve the welfare, health and/or economic conditions in the Priority Funding Area, encourage business or individual donor investment and/or strengthen public/private partnerships. Explain how the project will be achieved within the context of community support and collaboration with residents, business and/or other service provider agencies. Provide information on the organization's ability to successfully market and fundraise.)

Maryland Legal Aid is requesting Community Investment Tax Credits for its highly successful Foreclosure Legal Assistance Project (FLAP). The lack of decent, safe, and affordable housing is a primary need for persons living in poverty in Maryland. Loss of viable housing stock negatively impacts neighborhoods and is a serious threat to individual and family stability. Children forced to move because of a loss of housing often fall behind in school. Parents who are forced to move may be unable to keep their jobs or find new ones. Families involved in foreclosures frequently must move to poorer communities with fewer supports, and often must live with friends or relatives in overcrowded conditions.

Advocacy for tenants includes legal assistance to prevent evictions, enforce housing code standards, and preserve housing subsidies such as Section 8 vouchers that have pared down recipient roles, leading to more evictions. The foreclosure crisis has affected thousands of homeowners, many of whom are elderly and living on fixed incomes or who have been unable to stay current on mortgages due to unemployment or other family emergencies. Baltimore City has the highest poverty rate in Maryland at 19.2%, more than two times higher than other political subdivisions in the state. Approximately 50% of homes are occupied by their owners. Many struggle to live on fixed incomes, to pay property taxes, and to pay for the essentials: food, utilities, medical care, and prescriptions. The daily struggle is intensified when predatory adjustable mortgage rates reset and lead to higher monthly payments.

Prince George's County and Baltimore City have had the highest number of foreclosures in the state. As one of the nation's largest majority African-American counties, Prince George's County has been disproportionately impacted by predatory lending practices. A study conducted by the Community Law Center in Baltimore found that minority homeowners were specifically targeted by mortgage lenders, victimized by overpriced loan products, and charged higher rates than whites with similar credit records. African-Americans are affected by both higher rates of unemployment and higher foreclosure rates.

Immigrant communities in Montgomery County, particularly in the Germantown area, have also been severely affected by the loss of equity in their homes. During the housing bubble, radio ads targeting the Spanish speaking population aggressively marketed home ownership and the ease of mortgage qualification. Townhomes and condo units were purchased at inflated prices, often with second mortgages which were not fully understood or disclosed. Loan documents were not provided in the language of the purchaser. As unemployment rose and housing values fell, residents faced foreclosures on expensive loans for houses valued significantly below mortgage balances.

The Community Investment Tax Credits (CITC) program will enable Maryland Legal Aid to meet its small part in the increased demand for foreclosure prevention services. Funds generated by CITC will leverage existing resources, further sustaining Maryland Legal Aid's ongoing advocacy on behalf of tenants and homeowners seeking to maintain and improve the homes they own or rent. Maryland Legal Aid will coordinate its work under this project with other organizations working on housing preservation to enhance services to clients and avoid duplication of efforts. This project will be marketed through Maryland Legal Aid's Development Unit, a dedicated team of fundraising professionals responsible for generating revenue through fundraising and donor support. Efforts to further market this project will be coordinated with Maryland Legal Aid's Communications

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Director who will generate interest for the project through print, online and other social media support mechanisms.

Is the project described in this application (select one): *(Nonprofit organizations may submit only one application/project in any fiscal year. If this application is for a project that has previously been awarded Community Investment Tax Credits, a new phase or component of that project must be described in this application.)*

A new project A new phase/new activity related to an existing and/or previously awarded project.

Local Government Resolution: A local government resolution demonstrating support for the nonprofit's proposed project and application to DHCD for CITC, is required. Please upload the resolution. (NOTE: If the local government meeting of the resolution is to take place after the application due date, you must upload confirmation from the local government of the date of the meeting when the local resolution will be heard.)

https://projectportal.dhcd.state.md.us/_Upload/8820-FY16LOCALGOVERNMENTRESOLUTIONBaltimoreCity.pdf

Community Investment Tax Credits for this project will provide:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Operating Support	Capital Improvements	Both
Operating Requested Amount:	Capital Requested Amount:	TOTAL: \$0

Amount of Community Investment Tax Credits Requested: \$50,000

(The maximum amount for a Community Investment Tax Credit request is \$50,000. Please note: The total funding request amount will automatically be calculated as the online application budget is completed.)