

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL FUNDING (COMMUNITY GRANTS AND INVITE ONLY GRANTS)

Overview

Local Development Council (LDC) funding is a valuable resource serving communities within a three-mile radius of the Maryland Live! Casino. The LDC is tasked with making funding award recommendations to Anne Arundel County through small grants (“Community Grants” up to \$40,000) and larger grants (“Invitation” grants over \$40,000). These grants bring hope and make a significant difference in communities through community revitalization and beautification, education, workforce development, transportation, and social service programs.

While there are many worthy partners in the community who apply for grants to improve community life, the total requests and needs continually outpace available funding. Recognizing this, the LDC is establishing funding priorities and guiding principles to help direct future grant making activities. While the LDC anticipates going through a larger strategic planning process to analyze data and receive broad community input in the future, the guiding principles and funding strategies below will guide the work for the next fiscal year.

Guiding Principles

LDC funds should be spent on a program that will produce the biggest return on investment in communities within the three-mile radius of the Maryland Live! Casino. Below are three major areas on which the LDC will focus:

- (1) schools and educational institutions;
- (2) communities in need of beautification and revitalization; and
- (3) human service programs that help individuals succeed.

LDC priorities within each of these three areas are described below.

Specific Funding Opportunities

Community Beautification and Neighborhood Revitalization

The overarching goal is to invest in capital improvements in communities and on public land located within the three-mile radius of Maryland Live! Casino impacted by the Casino and/or low and moderate income communities in need of revitalization with limited finances available to address the need. Priority will be given to property repair programs and beautification activities.

Human Success and Sustainability

The overarching goal is to deploy resources for services that will have the greatest impact on people's lives – not just in terms of number of people served, but also to the extent, the service creates opportunities for success and self-sufficiency. Focus will be on initiatives that provide positive outcomes around the following areas:

- (1) transportation (empower accessibility);
- (2) help with child care (empower people to work);
- (3) recreation & youth development (after school programs, mentoring, police programs, Boys & Girls Clubs);
- (4) food and nutrition assistance (support a holistic food program);
- (5) increase employability programs (jobs skills training but also soft skills);
- (6) case management & support (to help people get on their feet in a sustainable way);
and
- (7) affordable housing development and stabilization.

The LDC also supports the development of a regional facility to house needed programs such as services for seniors, job training classes, child support, wellness programs, and community activities.

Schools and Educational Institutions

The overarching goal is to deploy resources for schools where it will make the greatest impact.

The LDC will focus on projects having the largest impact, in terms of both number of students and where the need is greatest.

The LDC will work with AACPS to develop a “needs” list for schools within the three-mile radius that have had little or no LDC support to date and (a) may not have the internal support necessary to generate such a list on their own and/or (b) may have substandard or inadequate facilities.

Educational initiatives submitted for LDC funding should be beyond what the Board of Education should be funding and not increase the County's maintenance of effort obligations.

LDC funding should not be replacing funding that is available from other resources.

The LDC will ensure AACPS supports the proposed project or initiative. These proposals will be shared with AACPS staff to ensure there is a need for LDC resources and there are not alternative sources that could support the project or initiative.

The LDC will work to identify and fund, either partially or entirely, key projects that may help to transform the schools within the three-mile radius into an excellent educational experience (i.e. Red-Blue Attack Cyber Security Initiative at Meade High School).

