



Montgomery County Office of
Grants Management

FY24 EMERGING BUSINESS DISTRICTS GRANTS PROGRAM *Information Session Questions and Answers*

- 1. In Maryland, BIDs are authorized by state legislation and must be formed in accordance with the state's legislative requirements, the most crucial of which is to meet a threshold of property owner approval (more than 51% in Montgomery County). How are property owners computed to get to 51%? Is it based on taxes paid or total number of owners (i.e. 51 owners out of 100 owners)?**

A BID petition must be approved by owners of 51% of the total number of parcels AND owners of 51% of the assessed value of total parcels.
- 2. How would this program work in areas that don't have defined county Urban Districts already, like Burtonsville, Damascus, Germantown, etc.?**

A local organization needs to be formed in those areas to lead the effort. Reach out to the Office of Grants Management for guidance on how to do so.
- 3. How does a nonprofit organization work with this type of grant?**

Nonprofit status is required to be eligible for this program since a nonprofit leads the BID or UDC that is eventually formed as a result of the process this grants program supports. There is another grant program that is anticipated to be launched early next year focused on place-based management, which will result in smaller awards for nonprofits, chambers of commerce and business groups in small towns. Last year, [the County awarded grants](#) ranging from \$25,000 to \$150,000 in places like Long Branch, Takoma Park, Rockville and others. That program is tailored more to what is known as Main St. efforts, which don't require a taxing structure and County Council approval. The FY24 Emerging Business Districts grants program is specifically for nonprofit organizations that are working to establish a locally governed taxing district that helps support the growth and promotion of a business district.
- 4. If an existing Urban District is in the process of determining the best way to create a 501(c)(3) but not in time for this application deadline, where do they go for support?**

If you are an existing Urban District that wants to move in the direction of privatizing some functions, let your Regional Services Director and local County Council member know as they will help support you in this process. The Place Based Management and

Emerging Business Districts programs are annual programs that aim to support organizations that would like to work in this direction.

5. Is there an application for nonprofits to complete to become a BID?

Yes, there is a formal application process that needs to be completed in order to apply for County Council approval to establish a BID or UDC. If you are ready to start the approval process, reach out to your [Regional Services Center Director, the Director of Strategic Partnerships at the Office of the County Executive, and/or your Council member](#). The Emerging Business Districts Grants Program aims to support organizations in the three years leading up to the point where they are ready to apply for the establishment of a BID or UDC. If you are at the end of this process and ready to apply to form a BID or UDC, reach out to us so we can walk you through the requirements of each of the two tracks.