

ZA00D – Miscellaneous Grant Programs

The proposed schedule includes an eight-month design period to begin June 2004. An architectural firm and an engineering firm have already been retained by Catholic Charities. Phase one construction of the new facility is scheduled to commence January 2005. The entire two-phase construction/renovation project is expected to be completed by April 2007.

Fund Data

**Authorization Request
(\$ in Millions)**

<i>Description</i>	<i>Prior Approp.</i>	<i>2005 Request</i>	<i>2006 Estimate</i>	<i>2007 Estimate</i>	<i>2008 Estimate</i>	<i>2009 Estimate</i>
GO Bonds	\$0.000	\$3.000	\$3.000	\$1.000	\$0.000	\$0.000
Nonbudgeted	0.000	3.000	3.000	1.000	0.000	0.000
Total	\$0.000	\$6.000	\$6.000	\$2.000	\$0.000	\$0.000

**Authorization Use
(\$ in Millions)**

<i>Description</i>	<i>Prior Approp.</i>	<i>2005 Request</i>	<i>2006 Estimate</i>	<i>2007 Estimate</i>	<i>2008 Estimate</i>	<i>2009 Estimate</i>
Planning	\$0.000	\$0.920	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000
Construction	0.000	5.080	6.000	2.000	0.000	0.000
Total	\$0.000	\$6.000	\$6.000	\$2.000	\$0.000	\$0.000

Issues

1. Could the Project Be Funded through Other State Programs, a Local Bond Bill, or Federal Faith-based and Community Initiatives Program?

On its merits this project is worthy of State funding. It supports an established community charitable organization that provides direct services to a disadvantaged sector of the population. However, it should be recognized that several elements of this multi-phase and multi-program project may be eligible for participation in other State-funded programs. Specifically, the portion of the project that would provide facilities for Christopher’s Place may be eligible for funding through the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) Community Health Facilities program. This

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program assists in the acquisition, construction, renovation, and equipping of facilities that provide mental health, developmental disability, and drug and alcohol abuse treatment services. In addition, the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) administers a grant program to assist in the development of emergency shelters and transitional housing for homeless individuals and families. Nonprofit organizations are eligible to participate in both of these programs. Moreover, it should be recognized that this type of project is typically funded through a local bond bill.

By executive order, President Bush established the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives to help strengthen and expand the role of faith-based and community organizations in addressing the nation's social problems. The President's executive order also created Centers for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives in seven cabinet departments – the United States Department of Justice, Agriculture, Labor, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, and Education, and the Agency for International Development – to promote the initiative and assist in the dissemination of federal grants. It is possible that this particular project may be eligible for a number of federal grants through this federal initiative.

The Department of Legislative Services recommends that the director of Catholic Charities discuss whether the organization has applied or sought assistance for the proposed project through the DHMH Community Health Facilities program and/or the DHCD Shelter and Transitional Housing program. In addition, the Department of Budget and Management should advise the committees why it thinks this project should be funded as a miscellaneous capital project through the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan rather than through a local bond bill. Finally, the director of Catholic Charities should discuss whether it has sought or applied for federal grant funds through the federal Faith-Based and Community Initiatives in support of the proposed project.

Recommended Actions

Approve.