

APPENDIX H

FUNDING SOURCES



INTRODUCTION

The proposed Coppin State University Public Safety Facility has the potential to significantly enhance Law Enforcement and Public Safety training as well as improve overall public safety. However, significant funding is also required to make a project of this magnitude a reality. Funding can potentially be secured at all stages of the project's design, although it is recommended to get different funders involved as early in the design process as possible as they may carry various requirements.

A project of this scale is not typically funded solely by one source. Several sources will likely be needed in order to make this project a reality. This summary will touch on some of the various funding opportunities that can be taken advantage of. These include but are not limited to: grants, bonds, private donations, and sunseting public safety income taxes. Moreover, this summary will address the importance of bringing aboard and developing relationships with the necessary people who help make a project of this scale a success.

TYPES OF FUNDING SOURCES

GRANTS

Grants are a potentially valuable source of funding for this project. Grants are unique in that they do not have to be repaid. However, this form of funding generally carries more stringent requirements of when and where the funds can be used. There are a variety of grants available, both public and private, with private grants being available at the local, state, and federal levels. However, simply applying for grants will not guarantee that a project will be funded. It is essential that extensive research be conducted and as many relevant grants as possible are applied for. Having a professional grant writer on hand is helpful, as they know how to navigate the world of grant proposals and research and can increase the likelihood of receiving funding.

In order to identify the most appropriate grants for the proposed Coppin State University Public Safety Facility, it is important to consider the specific needs of the project. This project is multi-faceted, containing many different entities that are potentially all eligible for different grants. With components of Law Enforcement, public safety (Fire and EMS), and education included in the scope of the CSU PSF, it is important to thoroughly investigate all potential options. A project of this magnitude is rarely funded by one source.

BONDS

Bonds are another funding source that can be used to finance this project. Bonds are one of the most common ways that local and state governments pay for large-scale projects. Bonds are essentially loans that are paid back over time with interest. Investors can purchase these bonds and receive a return on their investment. This is a great way for the government to raise money for projects that require large amounts of funding, while also providing an investment opportunity for individuals. Additionally, bonds can be broken down into different types, such as municipal bonds and government bonds, each with its own unique characteristics and benefits.

Bonds can be taxable or tax-exempt. Taxable bonds are issued by governments and are subject to federal income tax. The proceeds can be used for a variety of purposes, including public safety training facility construction. Tax-exempt bonds are issued by governments and are exempt from federal income tax, but there are restrictions on the use of the funds and the types of projects that are eligible for tax-exempt financing. Overall, bonds are a crucial part of public financing and can be an excellent tool for funding important projects that benefit the community as a whole.

Alternatively, a loan guarantee may be beneficial. Loan guarantees are similar to co-signing. A third party, (in this case the federal government) agrees to pay back the loan if the borrower defaults. This lowers the risk for the lender and can result in lower interest rates for the borrower. The federal government offers several types of loan guarantees that may be applicable to the project.

PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS

In addition to public funding, various other sources of funding could be explored for the proposed facility. One option is to seek private donations from philanthropists, nonprofit organizations, or companies who may be interested in supporting the project. Private donations and partnerships with businesses and organizations can provide valuable funding and resources. Such donations could make a significant contribution toward the total cost of the facility.

Another potential source of funding is through alumni of Coppin State University and members of the local community who have a vested interest in seeing the project come to fruition. This can be achieved through targeted fundraising campaigns and outreach efforts to raise awareness about the project and its importance to the community. For example, crowdfunding campaigns can be an effective way to raise funds and generate public support for a project.

It is important to approach potential donors with a clear and compelling case for why the project is important and worthy of their support. This may involve highlighting the potential benefits that the facility could bring to the community, such as improved: access to educational opportunities, emergency services training, emergency services response, and community safety. By making a strong case for the project, it is more likely that potential donors will be convinced of its value and be willing to contribute towards its funding.

SUNSETTING PUBLIC SAFETY INCOME TAX

A sunset public safety income tax is another potential funding source that could be explored. This type of tax is levied for a specific period of time and can be used to finance public safety projects. These taxes can take the form of income tax or sales tax. Implemented in 2015, Benton County, Washington voted to increase sales and use tax rate for public safety. This tax has generated an additional 2.5-3 million dollars in revenue per year to be used to fund the county and local law enforcement agencies.

THIRD-PARTY CONTRIBUTORS

LOBBYISTS & GRANT WRITERS

Engaging lobbyists and professional grant writers can significantly enhance the chances of successfully acquiring funding for a project. Lobbyists are experienced in navigating the complex landscape of government policies and regulations, advocating for the project's interests, and building relationships with key decision-makers. Similarly, professional grant writers possess expertise in crafting compelling proposals, aligning project goals with funding priorities, and effectively communicating the project's merits. By leveraging the skills and networks of lobbyists and grant writers, projects can access valuable resources and maximize their opportunities for funding success. In addition to utilizing the grant writers that the Baltimore City Fire Department and Baltimore Police Department may have on staff, the city and state may also be consulted to explore resources available for the project's use. National third-party grant writers can also be utilized to bring an outside perspective and fresh ideas to the proposal.

COMMUNITY & POLITICAL SUPPORT

To further increase the chances of securing funding, it is important to obtain support from the surrounding community and political backing from all levels of government. This can be achieved by building relationships with government officials, highlighting the importance of the project and the benefits it will bring to the community.

Collaborating with similarly aligned organizations at the local, state, and national levels can bring about several benefits. It can help with efficiently coordinating funding resources and sharing knowledge to improve outcomes that benefit all parties involved. Working together allows organizations to pool resources and fund projects that benefit everyone, leading to more efficient allocation of resources and reducing duplication of efforts. This could also potentially improve political support.

CASE STUDY

ATLANTA PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING CENTER

This project of a similar magnitude has recently received funding and begun to move into construction. It is an 85-acre complex for the use of Police training De Kalb County, Georgia and is estimated to cost \$90 million. This project has a similar scale to the Coppin State University Public Safety Facility and illustrates funding from both public and private sources.

The City of Atlanta approved \$31 million for use of the project's construction. In addition to this funding, the organization behind the construction of this facility, the Atlanta Police Foundation, will be paid \$1.2 million a year for the next 30 years totaling \$36 million by the City of Atlanta for using the facility.

Privately, donations from corporations and private citizens were used in order to help fund the remaining \$60 million necessary for construction. Private donations were instrumental in the ultimate funding of the project; reports show 80 percent of the money for the project came from this source. The Atlanta Police Foundation utilized its connections to seek donations from vested interests. The foundation's executive board is filled with executives from several big-name Atlanta based companies. Private funders come from all spectrums of work but include big names such as Chick-fil-A, Wells Fargo, The Home Depot, Georgia State University, and The Atlanta Hawks.

While those public and private funding sources were sufficient to fulfill funding requirements, there was a lack of community buy in at the beginning of the project. This has reduced the overall success of the project and only highlighted the importance of local community and political buy-in early in the project.

CONCLUSION

In summary, securing funding for the proposed Coppin State University Public Safety Facility will require a thorough and comprehensive approach that leverages a variety of funding sources. This can be achieved by exploring all possible funding sources, including grants, bonds, private donations, and sunseting public safety income taxes. By identifying these potential funders early in the design phase, bringing professional grant writers and lobbyists on board, building relationships with local politicians and community leaders, engaging with the wider community, and developing a clear plan, the project is more likely to be successful and become a reality.

SAMPLE FUNDING SOURCES

There are several federal funding sources available for a Fire and Law Enforcement Training Center.

Bond Financing

Maryland Stadium Authority indicates that debt service payment for the full project (i.e. no receipt of offsetting funding) is estimated to be approximately \$25 million per year for 30 year bonds and \$20 million per year for 40 year bonds based on current market conditions.

FEMA Homeland Security Grant Program

FEMA offers the HSGP which is comprised of three separate grants: State Homeland Security Program (SHSP), Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), and Operation Stonegarden (OPSG). SHSP and UASI grants may be used for construction but may not exceed the greater of 1 million dollars or 15% of the grant award. When applying for construction funds, recipients must submit approved zoning plans, architectural plans, and any other locally required permits. OPSG funds may not be used for any construction.

<https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/homeland-security>

Maryland State Grants

The State of Maryland offers numerous grants through the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services. The majority of grants may not be used for construction but do allow for the use of purchasing equipment, operating expenses, salaries, and more. The following list is a compilation of available grants:

Violence Intervention and Prevention Program (VIPP)

<https://goccp.maryland.gov/grants/programs/vipp/>

Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (BJAG)

<https://goccp.maryland.gov/grants/programs/bjag/>

Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program (CESF)

<https://goccp.maryland.gov/grants/programs/cesf/>

Paul Coverdell National Forensic Sciences Improvement Program (CFSI)

<https://goccp.maryland.gov/grants/programs/cfsi/>

Community Grant Program Fund (CGPF)

<https://goccp.maryland.gov/grants/programs/cgpf/>

Gun Violence Reduction Grant (GVRG)

<https://goccp.maryland.gov/grants/programs/gvrg/>

Title II Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Formula Grant (JJAC)

<https://goccp.maryland.gov/grants/programs/jjac/>

Police Accountability, Community, and Transparency Grant (PACT)

<https://goccp.maryland.gov/grants/programs/pact/>

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSNM)

<https://goccp.maryland.gov/grants/programs/project-safe-neighborhoods-psnm/>

State Aid for Police Protection Fund (SAPP)

<https://goccp.maryland.gov/grants/programs/sapp/>

STOP (Services * Training * Officers * Prosecutors) Violence

Against Women Formula Grant Program (STOP VAWA)

<https://goccp.maryland.gov/grants/programs/vawa/>

Maryland Legislative Bond Initiative

These are bonds that must be filed and applied for through a member of the Maryland General Assembly to support specific local or non-State-owned capital projects. In order for a project to be eligible it must be capital in nature, have a state or local public purpose, and have a 15-year service life. Candidates must display project readiness and those that identify alternative funding sources are given priority in funding decisions.

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/pubs-current/current-bond-initiative-workshop.pdf>

Baltimore City General Obligation Bonds (GO Bonds)

GO bonds are borrowed funds used for capital projects. They can be used to fund projects that have no other source of funds available. The City of Baltimore must get permission from voters through a vote to issue GO Bonds. The possible categories this project may fall under include Question C: Community and Economic Development Loan and Question D: Public Infrastructure Loan.

<https://planning.baltimorecity.gov/bond-issue-questions>