



Advocacy Alert

Governor's Budget Released! Action Needed!

Governor O'Malley submitted his FY2010 budget to the General Assembly on January 21, 2009. Given the current fiscal crisis and projected budget deficits, there was some very good news, however many critical programs are facing big cuts.

The good news: The Governor introduced legislation to renew and enhance the Maryland Historic Tax Credit. The Community Legacy Program is proposed to return to its original FY09 funding levels. The Maryland Humanities Council and The Maryland Heritage Areas Authority are included at level funding. There is also a possibility that Maryland will significantly benefit from the Federal stimulus package which will help address the budget deficit.

The bad news: IMPART and the Maryland Historical Trust Grant Programs are slated to receive significant cuts to their budgets. There is no money allocated for IMPART or the Capital Grant program. The Non-Capital Grant and the Museum Assistance Grant Program are both projected to receive largely reduced funding levels.

Budget Items: *(click on links to connect to fact sheets or websites for more information)*

- **[Historic Tax Credit:](#)**
Legislation Introduced: Governor O'Malley has proposed legislation to reestablish the Historic Tax Credit as a true credit and provide up to \$100 million in credits over a five year period.
FY2010 Budget: \$14.7 million to be included only if the above legislation does not pass
- **[Main Street Maryland](#)**
FY2009 Budget: Level funding to the Community Legacy Program: \$7 million
FY2010 Budget: \$7 million
FY2009 Budget: Level funding to Neighborhood Business Works: \$5 million
FY2010 Budget: \$4 million
- **[Maryland Heritage Area:](#)**
FY2009 Budget: Level funding for Maryland Heritage Area Grant: \$3 million
FY2010 Budget: \$3 million
- **Maryland Higher Education Commission:**

FY2009 Budget: Restored funding to [IMPART](#) (Institute for Museum, Preservation, and Archaeology Research and Training) at FY08 Levels: \$200,000 to continue support for fellowships and internships in museum, archaeology and preservation programs

FY2010 Budget: \$0

▪ **Maryland Historical Trust Grant Programs:**

FY2009 Budget: Level funding for [Museum Assistance Grant](#): \$1 million

FY2010 Budget: \$224,862

FY2009 Budget: Level funding for [Capital Grant](#) program: \$700,000

FY2010 Budget: \$0

FY2009 Request: Increased funding for [Non-Capital Grant](#): \$600,000

FY2010 Budget: \$282,138

• **[Maryland Humanities Council:](#)**

FY 2009 Budget: Level funding for Maryland Humanities Council: \$107,000

FY2010 Budget: \$107,000

Now is the critical time to thank Governor O'Malley and the members of the General Assembly for their support and express our concerns that the need to restore level funding to all of our programs.

The schedule for budget hearings is as follows.

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee: Public Safety Transportation & Environment Subcommittee

Friday, February 6th – 1:00 to 3:00 PM

Operating (Non Cap, Museum, and MHAA Grants)

House Appropriations Committee: Transportation & Environment Subcommittee

Monday, February 9th – 3:00 to 5:00 PM

Operating (Non Cap, Museum Grants, and MHAA Grants; Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program and Loan Program)

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee: Capital Budget Subcommittee

Tuesday, February 10 – 4:00 to 6:00 PM

PAYGO Capital (Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program and Loan Program)

Take Action!

- 1) Contact the [Governor](#) and ask that he increase funding levels to the Maryland Historical Trust Grant Programs, IMPART, and Neighborhood Business Works.

[Click here to access the form to e-mail the Governor](#)

- 2) **Contact the Chair of the [House Transportation & the Environment Subcommittee](#) (*scroll down*) to urge support of the preservation agenda:**
- Urge them to support level funding for the MHT Non-Capital Grant Program, the Maryland Heritage Area Grant Program and the Museum Assistance Grant Program.

Contact the Chair of the [Senate Public Safety, Transportation & Environment Subcommittee](#) (*scroll down*) to urge support of the preservation agenda:

- Support the passage of the proposed Heritage Tax Credit Legislation
- Urge them to support level funding for the MHT Non-Capital Grant Program, the Maryland Heritage Area Grant Program and the Museum Assistance Grant Program

Contact the Chair of the [Senate Capital Budget Subcommittee](#) (*scroll down*) to urge support of the preservation agenda:

- Support the passage of the proposed Heritage Tax Credit Legislation.

If your representative is listed as a member of these important committees, please contact them to encourage their support of the preservation agenda.

Be sure to give them examples of museums, historic sites and tax-credit projects in their district which have benefited from these programs.

- 3) **Take time to familiarize yourself with the political process by visiting the [Maryland General Assembly Homepage](#).**
- 4) **Make sure you know your representatives on a state and federal level by clicking [here](#).**

Your input is crucial to funding these important programs. Thanks for your support!

Tyler Gearhart
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