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 Baltimore District

2010 LEGISLATIVE SESSION PRIORITIES

Capital project:

Herman and Walter Samuelson Children's Hospital at Sinai - \$2.5 million

During the 2009 Legislative Session, the state allocated \$2.5 million in the Governor's 2010 capital budget for the construction and renovation of a new pediatric wing at Sinai Hospital to provide inpatient and outpatient services to children from birth to age 18. The new facility will allow for family-centered, community-based, multi-specialty pediatric care. In addition, the quality of care, efficiency of care and the patient experience will be improved. **An additional \$2.5 million was preauthorized for the FY 2011 capital budget. We remain extremely grateful for this commitment by the Governor and the State.**

Operating funds:

Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORC)- \$450,000 (\$275,000 to Baltimore and \$175,000 to Rockville)

The Baltimore Jewish Council and the Washington area Jewish community seeks a fourth year of continuation funding for Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORC). NORC programs are targeted to adults over age 62 and provide enriched supportive services such as transportation, social activities, community health nurses and social work services to allow community members to "age in place" in their own homes. The Upper Park Heights and Milbrook neighborhoods are target areas in Northwest Baltimore. In Montgomery County the communities are: Fallswood, Old Georgetown Village, Congressional Towers and Monterey in Rockville and Warwick and University Towers in Silver Spring.

Maryland-Israel Development Center - \$139,808

The Baltimore Jewish Council seeks to maintain the FY 2010 level funding for MIDC in the FY 2011 budget. MIDC supports economic development and trade between the state of Israel and the state of Maryland.

Northwest Hospital Domestic Violence Prevention Program (DOVE) - \$150,000

The DOVE Program educates medical staff to identify victims of domestic violence who might not otherwise self-identify. The DOVE Program provides crisis intervention 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to victims of domestic violence identified in the hospital by medical staff. Most of these patients do not self-identify as victims, but present symptoms of abuse that are recognized by physicians and nurses. Hospital based domestic violence programs provide health care services as well as emotional support and crisis intervention to domestic violence victims who otherwise may continue to live with abuse and experience additional health problems. Utilizing the hospital as the initial intake and service center is both beneficial to the patient and cost effective.

Programs Applicable to Associated Agencies

In addition to these specific agency requests the BJC will advocate to maintain FY 2010 funding levels for statewide programs that support important work being done by ASSOCIATED agencies.

- **Jewish Community Services (JCS)**, THE ASSOCIATED's non-profit human service agency, provides safety-net services to individuals in crisis, residential and supported-living services to people with developmental disabilities, aging-in-place services for the elderly, mental health services and immigration services in partnership with the state through funding from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Department of Aging, and the Department of Human Resources.
- **The Jewish Museum of Maryland** is dedicated to the interpretation of the Jewish experience in America as viewed through a Maryland lens. The Museum serves a diverse constituency of Jews and non-Jews of varied ages, backgrounds and interests throughout the State. Thanks to our inclusion in the State Aided Institutions (SAI) budget, the JMM has significantly increased services to students and teachers from Maryland public schools. The Jewish Museum also receives funding through the Maryland Historical Trust Museum Advancement Program within the Department of Planning.
- **Comprehensive Housing Assistance Inc. (CHAI)** promotes stable communities for Jewish residents and their neighbors in Northwest Baltimore. Its many projects help create and maintain affordable housing, improve public spaces, encourage neighborhood investment and enhance the quality of life for residents. CHAI benefits from funding through the Department of Housing and Community Development. In particular, these include the Rental Housing Production program, the Partnership Rental Housing Program and the Community Legacy Program.
- **The Owings Mills Jewish Community Center and the Gordon Center for the Performing Arts** are past recipients of funds from Maryland State Arts Council grants.

Public Policy Issues

- We must actively take steps to eliminate **domestic violence**. In 2008, 18,926 domestic violence crimes were reported in Maryland. Further, the Department of Justice states that only 25% of domestic violence incidents are estimated to be reported to the police.
- We remain committed to efforts that will increase access to **affordable healthcare** for uninsured and underinsured women, men and children in Maryland.
- We support initiatives that make **prescription drugs more affordable** for low and moderate-income families.
- Throughout Maryland, local utilities, legislators and the media have recorded, at record numbers, reports of individuals having to choose between keeping warm and putting food on the table. We believe this is an unacceptable choice and have established criteria to evaluate **electricity regulation** legislation.
- We support **environmental education, smart growth, energy conservation and green building**.
- We are committed to helping both workers and businesses weather the recession and will encourage Maryland to act now to claim \$126.8 million in federal funds to help rebuild the **unemployment trust fund**.