



**Testimony of the Rockville Mayor and Council
HB 84 – Maryland Nonprofit Development Center Program – Nonprofit,
Interest-Free, Micro Bridge Loan (NIMBL) Account – Funding
Support**

The Mayor and Council of Rockville are thankful to Chair Atterbeary and the members of the House Ways and Means Committee for the opportunity to share the City's comments on HB 84. We are thankful to Delegate Forbes for sponsoring this legislation in support of Maryland community non-profit organizations.

The city supports HB 84 and its goals to enhance the Maryland Non-Profit Development Center Program – Nonprofit Interest-Free, Micro Bridge Loan (NIMBL) through increased funding. This legislation would enable additional Maryland nonprofit organizations to take advantage of this interest-free, microbridge loan.

Nonprofits play a critical role in our communities and are important community partners to local jurisdictions in providing essential services to Maryland residents, including food, shelter, somatic and mental health, recreation, arts, academic enrichment, after-school programs, and many other services. The Rockville Mayor and Council are strong supporters of non-profits in our city. We provide grant funding to a number of wonderful local non-profits that meet the needs of some of our most vulnerable residents through our Caregiver (FY23 - \$417, 810) and Outside Agency (FY23 - \$773,810) grant programs.

The NIMBL program provides grants for training and technical assistance services and bridge loans to nonprofit entities that have received written confirmation of funding from government grants or contracts but have not yet received the funding. Due to limited budget capacity, the majority of nonprofits do not have the ability to forward fund projects using their own resources while they wait to receive funding.

The program is essential for non-profits to cover salaries and other critical operating costs, while they wait for grants and other funding commitments from partners to arrive. In an environment of rising costs due to high inflation, a lingering pandemic, and increased community assistance needs, this program expansion is well-timed and urgently needed.

For these reasons, we urge the Committee to provide HB 84 with a favorable report.