

(Addendum – 9/23/2026)

Council Bill 58-2026 Fiscal Analysis

Introduced: September 8, 2026

Fiscal Manager: Melinda Massey

Legislative Intent: Council Bill 58-2026 proposes to amend the Howard County (“the County”) Code to establish additional requirements for nonprofit grant applicants and grant agreements, impose enhanced financial and programmatic reporting requirements, establish additional requirements for grants involving the purchase, construction, development, or redevelopment of real property, and require the creation and maintenance of a centralized grants application platform and publicly accessible grants database.

The bill does not appropriate additional grant funding or establish a new grant program. The legislation is not expected to directly increase County grant expenditures.

ANALYSIS

Fiscal Impact:

CB58-2026 would require the Administration to establish a centralized grants application platform and database. Depending on the existing technology infrastructure, implementation could require:

- Implementation of system integration with existing County financial and procurement systems;
- User-access, cybersecurity controls, and training;
- Data storage and backup services;
- Ongoing system maintenance, licensing, and technical support.

Budget Implications:

The Administration has provided responses to the following questions:

1. Please provide a detailed estimate of the one-time and recurring costs associated with establishing and maintaining a centralized grants application platform and database that would be required by CB58-2026 (if passed), including personnel, technology, procurement, cybersecurity, training, maintenance, and ongoing administration. Additionally, identify the funding source for these costs and any anticipated savings from consolidating existing grant-management processes.

Response: *Department of Community Resources & Services (DCRS) and Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) currently use the program Neighborly for building and maintaining each grant program that they oversee. Below are DCRS’*

current annual subscription costs for Office of the Local Children’s Board (LCB) and Office of Community Partnerships (OCP).

The annual subscription includes customer support from Neighborly for in the system (LCB has 7 programs, OCP has 5 programs).

<i>Annual Subscription</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Cost @ \$2,556.00 (per program)</i>
<i>LCB</i>	<i>7 programs</i>	<i>\$17,892.00</i>
<i>OCP</i>	<i>5 programs</i>	<i>\$12,780.00</i>
<i>Total</i>		<i>\$31,000.00 (est.)</i>

The balance for a total of \$230,000 (approximately) across 6 years for these two departments. This contract is shared by DCRS and DHCD. For additional context, Neighborly charges:

<i>Annual license charge</i>	• <i>\$2,566.00 per license</i>
<i>One time set-up fees</i>	• <i>\$4,500.00 per grant set-up</i>

Based on the number of grant programs that the County administers with local, state, and federal funds, we anticipate that the fiscal impact of adopting a singular grant management software across all of County Government could be significant.

Other Notes:

The Administration has provided responses to the following questions:

2. Please provide a universal list of all the grants that would comply with CB58-2026.

Response: *We are continuing to collect the universal list of all grant programs provided by our County Departments and Offices. However, we have shared the programs offered by the following departments that have been received thus far:*

- *See attached for Housing Grants.*
- *See attached for OCS Grants.*
- *DPZ – Related grants for which the County is the grantor.*
 - *Historic Cemetery Restoration Grant (annual grant to Genealogical Society for \$6K – these funds are allocated from the General Fund)*
 - *Maryland Façade Improvement Program (a MD DHCD grant program in which the County has at times been a recipient and then*

passes the funds on to a non-profit or quasi-government partner – awards have been \$75K-\$150K)

- *Land Preservation Grant programs (partnership with Howard County Conservancy – annual awards have been between \$500K and \$1 million)*
- *CABLE PEG Grants – County is a pass-through for State and Federal Grants to entities like HCC. Funding depends on numbers of subscribers.*
- *OCP (Consumer Protection) – The new Financial Empowerment Center is a grant to United Way.*
- *DCRS Office of Community Partnerships*
 - *Community Services Partnership Grant Program*
 - *Opioid Restitution Fund Grant Program*
 - *Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund Grant Program*
- *DCRS Office of the Local Children's Board*
 - *County-funded STRIVES grants*
 - *County-funded Youth Engagement Programming grants*
 - *State-supported grants through*
 - *The Governor's Office for Children*
 - *The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy*
 - *The Department of Juvenile Services*
 - *The Community Health Resources Commission*
- *County Administration*
 - *Arts, Tourism, Health, and Civic CSP Grant Program*
 - *CSP PAYGO Grant Program*