

*The 2019 General Assembly session convened on Wednesday, January 9, 2019.
The Governor presented his operating and capital budgets shortly thereafter.*

The following items have been included in the Governor's Capital Budget:

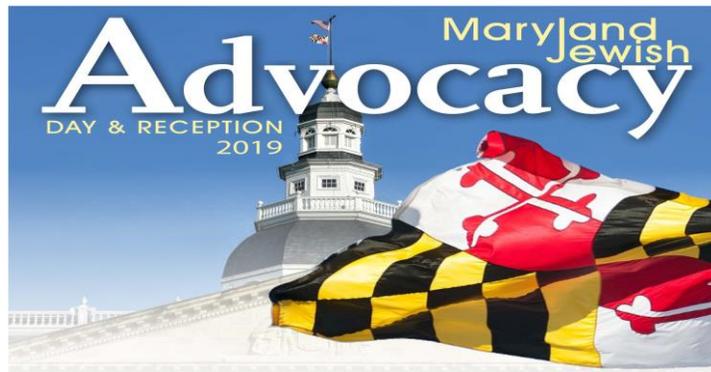
- A **\$1,000,000 grant for the University of Maryland's Hillel Student Center, which provides a place for students of all faiths, cultures and ethnicities.**

Request

Maryland Hillel will commence construction of a new 38,000 square foot facility at 7505 Yale Avenue, College Park, MD, in 2019. (To date, Maryland Hillel has hard commitments totaling some \$7.5 million). Over the course of its seven decades of existence, Maryland Hillel's impact on campus has expanded beyond its immediate role of serving Jewish students on campus. Today, the organization makes many substantial ecumenical contributions to the College Park community. The new facility will empower the organization to expand its functions and contributions to the student experience. Hillel is committed to promoting mutual respect, tolerance, understanding and cooperation among all students to enhance the campus community and develop community leaders for the future.

Current programs include:

- Interfaith programming – Programming that reaches beyond Jewish students includes Global Justice Shabbat and Freedom Seder. In addition, interfaith students hosted and participated in Shabbat dinners as part of SHABAM (Shabbat Across Maryland). Currently SHABAM serves 1,200 students, including a large multi-faith contingent.
- Lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgendered (LGBT) programming – Hillel has a student group called HAMSA that organizes events, speakers and dialogue about LGBT issues. These events serve more than 200 students, many of whom are not LGBT. Hillel helps to serve as a catalyst to build allies within the communities. In addition, the Hillel building will be a Safe Zone for all students.
- Campus Leadership Development – In 2016/2017, Maryland Hillel initiated a program to create interfaith dialogue amongst diverse university leaders by providing these students a travel experience to the Middle East. This program was incredibly well received and was expanded from its original 10 students to 25 in the 2017/2018 school year. The program includes pre- and post-trip activities. Plans are underway for the 2018/2019 experience.

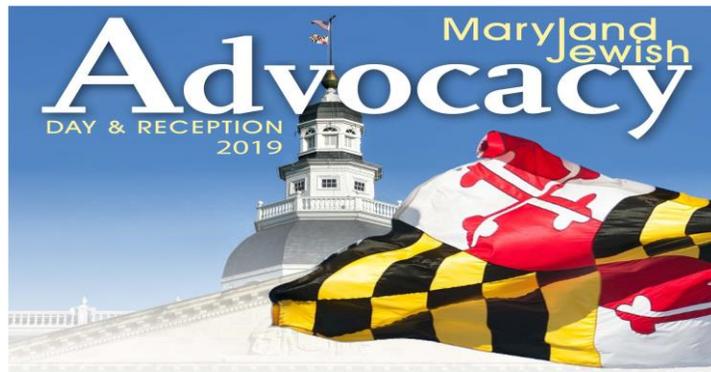


- Hackathon – Maryland Hillel hosts an annual hackathon for 150 students from universities around the country. This experience provides technologically inclined UMD students with the opportunity to compete with the best and brightest from around the nation.
- Guest Lecturers – Hillel serves as a center for extracurricular education. The organization hosts an array of public lectures and presentations. Examples of speakers in 2017/2018 included domestic abuse activists, Holocaust survivors speaking on human rights and social change agents.
- Social justice fellowships – A public service and social justice initiative devoted to transforming the culture of our community through service on and around campus. This helps to channel the enthusiasm students find toward service learning on Alternative Break trips back into the communities surrounding them locally. Initiatives include a panel on homelessness, a 48-hour homeless challenge, a day of lobbying, a sock drive and a trash-to-treasure donation drive. There are 12 fellows who are setting up community service initiatives with more than 300 student volunteers.
- Social justice programming – Social justice is infused across the board into many activities at Hillel such as Global Hunger Shabbat, food drives and Challah for Hunger initiatives. Global Hunger Shabbat is a national initiative in which Hillel is led by an interfaith group of students interested in global justice issues around food. These activities serve 1,000 students.

How Will Students and Faculty Benefit From Enhanced Space?

Hillel has made significant strides in the last decade and has increased the number of students it serves by 200%. The daily users of the building have increased 300% over the past 10 years. Unfortunately, Hillel's physical infrastructure (or lack thereof) has become an impediment to further growth.

- A 38,000 square foot, \$15 million facility located at 7505 Yale Avenue will serve as an auxiliary student center on the other side of Baltimore Avenue. The location will provide students of all backgrounds a welcoming environment in which they can meet, study, learn and eat. Any chartered University group seeking a place for a gathering, will be granted space, provided the function does not contravene Hillel's mission.
- Integrating state-of-the-art technology, an array of multi-use spaces, and a staff ready and willing to entertain student programmatic visions, Hillel will become a location for students to give expression to the aspirations they have for their student experience.

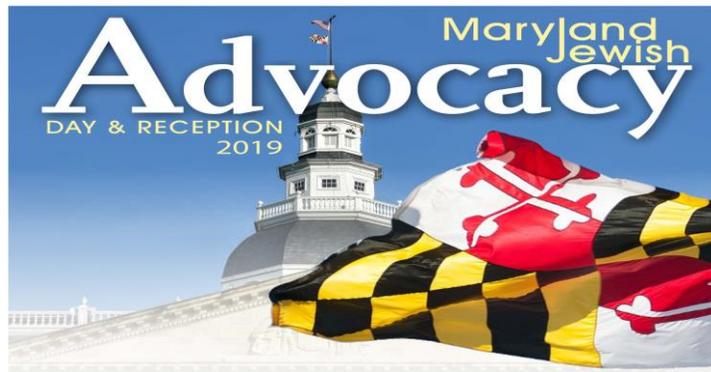


- The building will be utilized by Hillel employees to teach an array of for-college and informal classes to the campus community. Topics will include leadership training, social justice work, interfaith dialogue and more.
- Accommodations within the building will enhance student groups' ability to host guests, without incurring sizeable accommodation costs. This will reduce University expenditure.
- The new facility will enrich the lives of students and will enhance the presence of the University on the opposite side of Baltimore Avenue. The location will be a critical student space situated between their dorm rooms and classrooms. The Center will serve as a catalyst for student interaction, learning, leadership development and societal awareness.

Private funding is also being sought to help match the State's investment and to complete these much-needed renovations. Please urge legislators to support funds allocated in the budget for this important project.

The following items have been included in the Operating Budget at level-funding:

- A **\$225,000 grant within the Department of Aging's budget** to support **aging in place** programs in the DC suburban area. These comprehensive programs are aimed at providing seniors with the services they need (transportation, social services, recreational programs, etc.) to be able to age in place and stay in their communities. These dollars will benefit Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs) in Montgomery County.
- A **\$350,000 grant in the Department of Aging's budget for the Jewish Social Services Agency** to help continue to meet the **acute and growing needs of Holocaust survivors**. This year saw continued growth in the enrollment of survivors into the Holocaust Survivor Program. During the past 12 months, 50 survivors were enrolled in the program from the wait list. 14 of the 481 total survivors served moved from their home in the community to an institution, less than a 3% institutionalization rate. All 481 survivors received care management and service coordination along with basic services including transportation to medical appointments, home delivered meals, grocery cards, or prescription assistance. Because over 83% of survivors have incomes below the Federal Poverty Level, basic assistance is essential for keeping these seniors in their homes. In addition, 399 survivors received safety-net services including personal care, homemaking services and nursing assessments. With a growing caseload, program costs also continue to grow. Total program expense in FY18 was \$2.6M, an average cost per client of nearly \$6,000. We anticipate that cost to escalate as our caseload continues to age and as we bring additional clients into the program in the coming year that are currently on the waitlist.

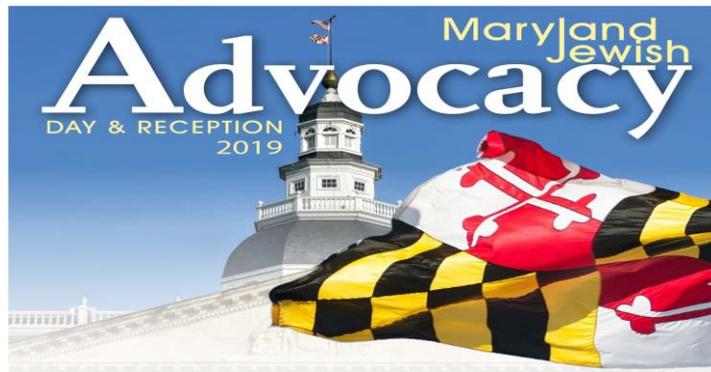


- A **\$75,000 grant in the Department of Aging’s budget to assist Charles E. Smith Life Communities** with providing general operating support for **the ElderSAFE Center’s activities**. The Center provides shelter, holistic care, and community referrals to vulnerable adults who are 60+ and are victims of abuse (physical, sexual, psychological and financial) and/or neglect. ElderSAFE is open to all community members of any background regardless of the ability to pay for services. ElderSAFE is specifically focused on meeting the language and cultural competency needs of underserved populations. The ElderSAFE Center has been fully operational for four years and in that time, has consulted on over 257 elder abuse cases; had 16 admissions, provided more than 3,900 days of shelter, and provided consultation to clients to ensure discharge to safe environments; educated approximately 5,200 community members and professionals. ElderSAFE created a Community Coalition of social service, governmental, and law enforcement partners that meets quarterly to provide an integrated, multi-disciplinary coordinated community response to the growing problem of elder abuse in our state and increase awareness of elder abuse. ElderSAFE has also received considerable support from Montgomery County. With continued level-funding from the State, this Center will be a true partnership between the State of Maryland, Montgomery County and philanthropic efforts.
- A **\$275,000 grant in the Department of Business and Economic Development’s budget** to support the **Maryland-Israel Development Center’s (MIDC)** work. MIDC has produced hundreds of jobs and millions of dollars in investments in both Maryland and Israel. This year’s level funding request will allow MIDC to continue their track record of enormous economic development success. The MIDC has attracted over thirty Israeli high-tech companies to Maryland including the North American headquarters of Elta, a defense contractor that has brought over 100 jobs to the State.

Please urge legislators to support the above-mentioned operating budget items, which have been included in the Governor’s operating budget.

The following items are being requested as bond bills:

- We are requesting a **bond bill in the amount of \$150,000** for Jewish Foundation for Group Homes (JFGH). JFGH is seeking funding to purchase and renovate two apartments in an appropriate retirement community. Senior living communities offer residents a full calendar of activities. Active, independent residents enjoy on-campus activities and community outings designed to work around any of the residents’ physical or cognitive limitations. For those with mobility challenges, the opportunity to enjoy activities onsite helps them stay connected. In keeping with our mission, JFGH’s goal is to continue providing support for our aging population while helping to seamlessly transitioning from their homes into a thriving and inclusive senior community.
Please thank Senator Ben Kramer and Delegates Cullison, Crutchfield, and Stewart for their leadership and support on this bond bill.



- We are requesting a **bond bill in the amount of \$150,000** for the Sunflower Bakery. Sunflower will be moving their operations to a new 3000 square foot warehouse in Rockville, Maryland. Their current 1200 square foot production kitchen in Gaithersburg is inadequate to meet Sunflower’s growing programmatic and production needs. The additional space would allow for a dedicated training kitchen, expanded production kitchen, classrooms for employment readiness training, student break area, retail space and offices for student interviews, evaluations and meetings.
Please thank Senator Cheryl Kagan and Delegates Barve, Gilchrist, and Palakovich-Carr for their leadership and support on this bond bill.

MDSE: Funding for Educational Organizations – BOOST Program:

- The JCRC has always had a strong commitment to public education and continues to support education-related policies and funding that help our public schools succeed in Maryland. Additionally, over the years we have also seen our Jewish day school population thriving and growing tremendously. We recognize the positive contributions of Jewish educational institutions and their role in also helping to build and strengthen our community. BOOST funding provides a benefit for our non-public school families in need throughout our own local community and has proven to be successful in helping with day school affordability for our families that seek ways to offset tuition costs at a private or parochial school. This program has helped many lower-income students attend a Jewish day school or other nonpublic school. Moreover, because the program is funded through general tax revenue, we feel it adds new money for education without taking away money from public schools. Therefore, we would like to express our **support for the BOOST program as passed by the Maryland legislature in 2016 and the increase in funding recommended by Governor Hogan in this year’s FY2020 budget.**

We also support all of the capital and operating budget priorities of the Baltimore Jewish Council.

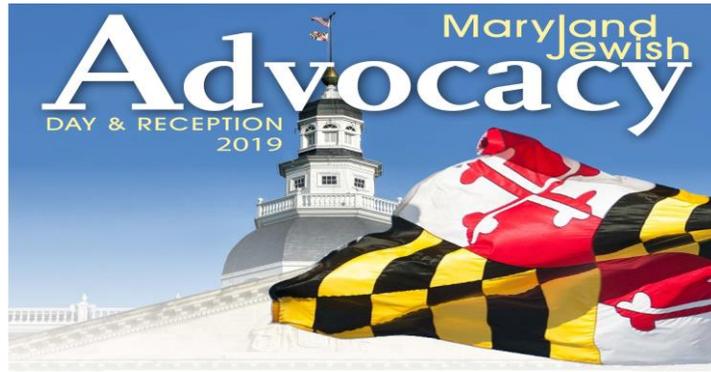


SUPPORT Funding for Increase Security Measures at Schools and Child Care Centers At-Risk of Hate Crimes and Places of Worship

Please urge legislators to support funds allocated in the Governor's budget for security measures to help prevent hate crimes.

- **\$2,000,000 in increase funding** for the “**Schools and Child Care Centers – State Grant Program – Security Upgrades for Facilities at Risk of Hate Crimes or Attacks,**” within the Maryland Center for School Safety. The JCRC and BJC were both very supportive during the 2017 legislative session of **SB1191/HB1161**, which authorized the Maryland Center for School Safety to make grants to schools and child care centers determined to be at risk of hate crimes or attacks for security-related personnel, technology, and facility upgrades. This bill was a major step forward in helping to protect not only Jewish schools and child care centers, but schools and centers of any faith or ideology that are determined to be at risk of a hate crime or attack.
- **\$3,000,000 in new funding** to protect houses of worship that are at-risk of hate crimes. This new competitive grant program will be administered by the Office of Crime Control and Prevention. Houses of worship will be eligible for funding regardless of religious affiliation.

In recent years, we have seen an increase in hate crimes being committed nationally, but even more so locally, particularly in Montgomery County. There has also been a drastic increase, particularly since January 2017, of several hate incidents, bomb threats, and more against individual members of our community and Jewish institutions. It cannot become an acceptable norm for children being evacuated from daycare centers in response to repeated bomb threats and mosques deliberately being set on fire. We must ensure that all our schools, child care facilities, and houses of worship that face this increase in threats have the support they need. This increase of funding for Maryland Center for School Safety and new funding for the Office of Crime Control and Prevention will go a long way in helping to protect our faith institutions, schools and child care centers throughout the State of Maryland.



Hate Crimes Legislation

Policy One Pager: Senate Bill 232/House Bill 240 Hate Crimes – Threats and Penalties

What does Senate Bill 232/House Bill 240 do?

This bill (1) prohibits a person from threatening to commit a violation of specified hate crimes; (2) alters penalties for violations of the State's prohibition on committing hate crimes; and (3) authorizes a court to require a person convicted of committing a hate crime, as a condition of supervised release, to attend educational classes and perform community service related to the person or group that was the subject of the person's hate crime.

Who are the bill sponsors?

The lead sponsor in the Senate is Senator Bobby Zirkin.

The lead sponsor in the House is Delegate Sandy Rosenberg. Co-sponsors include Delegates Attar, Bridges, Cardin, Chang, Guyton, Hettleman, Lierman, Moon, Solomon, Stein, and Sydnor.

How does it impact the Jewish community?

In recent years, we have seen an increase in hate crimes, incidents, and threats being committed. Locally in Montgomery County we've had several schools, synagogues, churches, mosques and other local institutions tagged with swastikas and other hate filled messages both outside and inside the buildings. In 2017 and 2018, we saw a drastic increase of several hate incidents and threats, bomb threats, and more against individual members of our community and Jewish institutions. These threats currently do not fall under the hate crime statute. Senate Bill 232/House Bill 240 would help to strengthen our current hate crime statute by punishing individuals who make these heinous threats against someone because they are a certain race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation. Even though no physical harm may result from a hate threat, they are very personal crimes, which leave the victims with emotional and psychological impacts. Hate threats may not physically wound, but they may intimidate other members of the victim's community, leaving them feeling terrorized, isolated, vulnerable, and unprotected by the law.

What can be done?

The Senate and House Bills both had a public hearing on February 12. Please tell members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee and the House Judiciary Committee to support this important legislation.



Policy One Pager: Senate Bill 473 Hate Crimes – Civil Remedy

What does Senate Bill 473 do?

This bill would authorize a person who is aggrieved by an act that would constitute a violation of the State's hate crime laws, or the Attorney General on behalf of the person, to bring a civil action against the person or persons who committed the violation. The bill would also authorize a court to impose an injunction and award a variety of specified remedies.

Who are the bill sponsors?

The lead sponsor is Senator Ben Kramer. Co-sponsors include Senators Augustine, Beidle, Benson, Carter, Elfreth, Ellis, Feldman, Ferguson, Griffith, Guzzone, Hayes, Hester, Kagan, Kelley, King, Klausmeier, Lam, Lee, McCray, Patterson, Peters, Pinsky, Rosapepe, Smith, Waldstreicher, Washington, Young, and Zucker.

How does it impact the Jewish community?

According to the Anti-Defamation League's data, of the 45 states and the District of Columbia that have state hate crime laws, 33 also permit civil actions for violation of the criminal statutes. In Montgomery County alone, we have seen an overwhelming amount of hate crimes, incidents, and threats towards individual members of our community. The JCRC is in contact with our local law enforcement on a regular basis and doing what we can to help support community members with information of who to report incidents to and how to navigate through the process. In January of 2017, the JCRC held a community-wide forum with County Executive Ike Leggett, Montgomery County police chief Tom Manger, MCPS school superintendent, head of school for the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day school, an ADL representative, and other community leaders. There were a lot of questions on how to better educate the public on what to do when these hate crimes happen but also what civil remedies may be available to them as well. We think that it's time Maryland join DC and the other 32 states that already have civil remedies in place for violation of state hate crime statutes.

What can be done?

The Senate is holding a hearing on February 20. Please tell members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to support this important legislation.



**Policy One Pager: Senate Bill 416
Education – Curriculum – Holocaust and Genocide Unit
(Lessons of the Holocaust and Genocide Act)**

What does Senate Bill 416 do?

This bill would require public middle schools and high schools and certain nonpublic middle schools and high schools to include in the curriculum a unit of instruction on the Holocaust and genocide that is consistent with certain guidelines. It would require the State Board of Education to develop certain guidelines on or before a certain date and encourage certain nonpublic middle schools and high schools to include in the curriculum a unit of study on the Holocaust and genocide.

Who are the bill sponsors?

The lead sponsor in the Senate is Senator Ben Kramer. Co-sponsors include Senators Ellis, Feldman, Guzzone, Patterson, Peters, Smith, Waldstreicher, Young, Zirkin, and Zucker.

How does it impact the Jewish community?

In recent years, we have seen an increase in hate crimes, incidents, and threats being committed at our local public and nonpublic schools. Locally in Montgomery County we've had several schools, synagogues, churches, mosques and other local institutions tagged with swastikas and other hate filled messages both outside and inside the buildings. In 2017 and 2018, we saw a drastic increase of several hate incidents and threats, bomb threats, and more against individual members of our community and Jewish institutions.

In April of 2018 a survey conducted by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany was released and found that a startling number of American adults lack basic knowledge of what happened during the Holocaust. Further, the knowledge gap was more pronounced among U.S. millennials – people ages 18 to 34. Twenty-two percent of millennials in the poll said they haven't heard of the Holocaust or are not sure if they've heard of it. However, the most important statistic from the survey was that despite a lack of knowledge, ninety-three percent said that Holocaust education was necessary in our schools. This survey clearly underscores the importance of Holocaust and Genocide education in all our schools. If there are gaps in awareness while our Holocaust survivors are still here, it's hard to imagine how hard it will be when they are no longer with us to tell their stories.

What can be done?

The bill had a public hearing on February 13. Please tell members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee to support this important legislation.



Policy One Pager: Senate Bill 209/House Bill 122 Protective Orders – Relief Eligibility – Rape and Sexual Offenses

What does Senate Bill 209/House Bill 122 do?

This bill expands eligibility for a domestic violence protective order by altering the definition of a “person eligible for relief” to include an individual who alleges the commission of rape or a sexual offense, as specified, or attempted rape or sexual offense in any degree. It also removes these offenses from the list of offenses for which an individual may seek relief under provisions of law regarding peace orders.

Who are the bill sponsors?

The lead sponsor in the Senate is Senator Bobby Zirkin. Co-sponsors include Senators Hester, Lee, Ready, Smith, Waldstreicher, Washington, and West.

The lead sponsor in the House is Delegate Kathleen Dumais. Co-sponsors include Delegates Arikan, Atterbear, Barron, Bartlett, Crutchfield, W. Fisher, Grammer, Hettleman, Lopez, Malone, McComas, Moon, Shetty, and Sydnor.

How does it impact the Jewish community?

The Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse (JCADA) takes a holistic approach to domestic and dating abuse that integrates clinical support with community education and prevention. JCADA provides high quality services to all residents of the Greater Washington, DC community, without regard to ability, background, faith, gender or sexual orientation.

Shalom bayit—peace in home—is a central tenet of Judaism. However, it is not the reality in many homes where the constant threat of abuse continues to erode both family and community life. The Jewish Community Relations Council, together with JCADA, has been a long-time supporter of measures to aid and protect victims of domestic violence. This legislation builds on measures we have supported in the past.

What can be done?

The Senate Bill had a public hearing on February 6 and the House Bill had a hearing on January 31. Please tell members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee and the House Judiciary Committee to support this important legislation.