

Q1 BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS QUARTER 1 | 2025 SUMMARY



Brooke E. Lierman
Comptroller of Maryland

BY THE NUMBERS

The BPW met five times during Q1 2025 and took the following actions:

419
total items approved

116 → **\$2.13 billion**
new contracts state expenditures

\$2.96 billion
total state expenditures

303 → **\$832.7 million**
modifications, renewals, grants, settlements state expenditures

45 new prime contracts to certified small businesses
\$259.4 million

The **Small Business Reserve Program** sets a 20% annual goal for all state procurement expenditures with certified small businesses.

27 new prime contracts to MBEs

52 new contracts with MBE goals

\$244.7 million

20.65% average MBE subcontracting goal for new contracts

The **Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Program** sets a 29% annual goal for state procurement expenditures with certified MBEs as prime or subcontractors.

The BPW consists of Governor Wes Moore, Treasurer Dereck Davis and Comptroller Brooke Lierman. The Board meets every two weeks and is responsible for approving most contracts over \$200,000, overseeing the issuance of bonds, acquiring and transferring state property, approving wetlands licenses and place-based investing programs (see below).

PLACE-BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMS

Capital Grants Program

provides funding to local governments and nonprofits for projects such as community centers, health facilities, museums, and affordable housing.

In Q1 2025, the BPW approved **\$53.3 million** for **98 projects**.

Community Parks and Playgrounds

provides funding to Maryland's cities and towns to rehabilitate and build parks and playgrounds.

In Q1 2025, the BPW approved **\$0** for **0 projects**.

Program Open Space

preserves natural areas for public use and to protect watersheds and wildlife through land acquisition and conservation easements.

In Q1 2025, the BPW approved **\$26.8 million** for **35 projects**.

Local Parks and Playgrounds Infrastructure Program

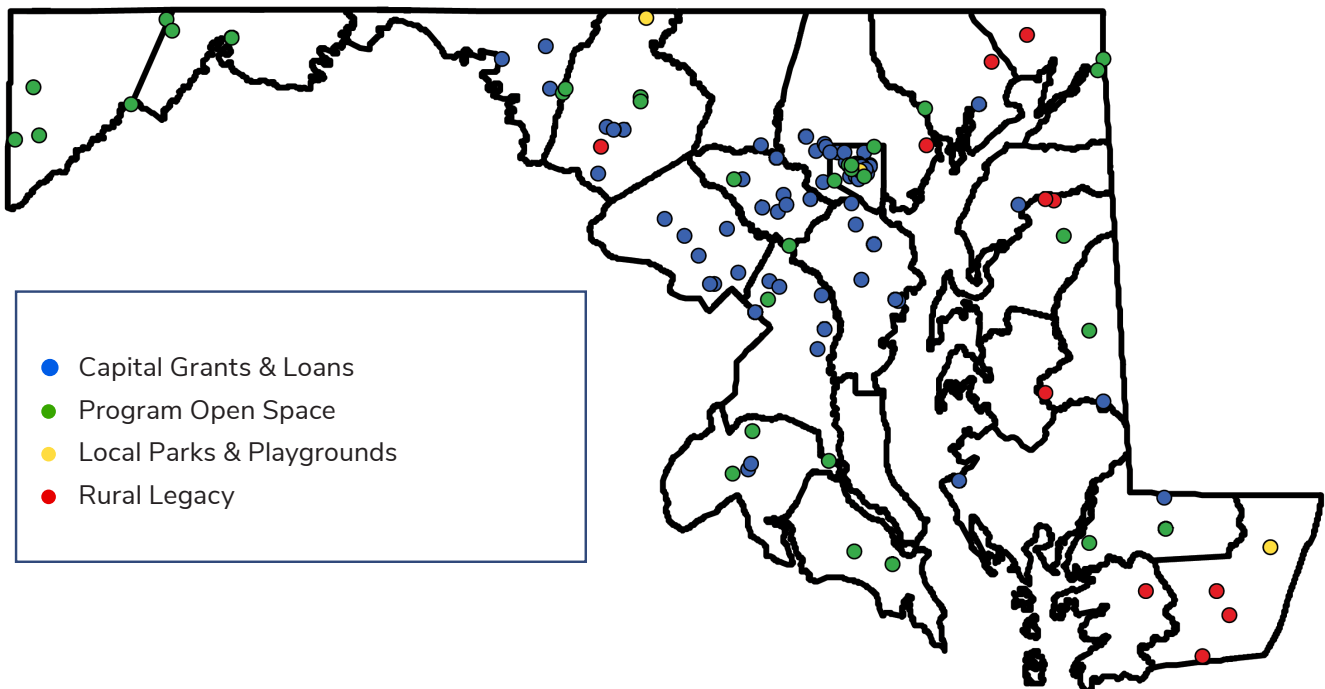
restores and creates parks and green space systems.

In Q1 2025, the BPW approved **\$520,318** for **3 projects**.

Rural Legacy Program

preserves large, contiguous tracts of land to enhance natural resources, agricultural, forestry and environmental protection.

In Q1 2025, the BPW approved **\$5.2 million** for **12 projects**.



BPW AT WORK

Master Contracting

Master contracting is a streamlined procurement method where bidders/offerors are pre-qualified for specific services, supplies, or commodities. The goal is to simplify the procurement process, reduce administrative burden, and cut costs.

The process for establishing and utilizing a master contract, as outlined in [State statute](#), has two key parts:

1. Establishing a pool of pre-qualified vendors

First, a state agency creates and advertises a solicitation to establish a master contract for an indefinite quantity of goods or services to be furnished at specific times, or as ordered. Common categories of master contracts include general construction, consulting and technical services plus (CATS+), IT hardware, electrical repairs, and commercial off-the-shelf software (COTS). Next, the agency receives proposals from vendors, conducts evaluations, and makes selections. Finally, the agency requests BPW approval to award the master contract to their recommended vendors. There is no state spending associated with this phase of the process.

2. Conducting secondary competition

Once a master contract has been established, a state agency issues to the pre-qualified vendors only a **task order**, **purchase order**, or **request for resumes** for specific services, supplies, or commodities within the scope of the master contract. According to procurement statute and regulations, if the agency expects the

total cost of a secondary competition to be \$100,000 or less, the solicitation must be issued to less than six master contractors. If the solicitation is to exceed \$100,000, it must be issued to all master contractors in the appropriate category. Once master contractors submit their bids, the agency evaluates them and makes recommendations for BPW review and approval. Master contracts for construction follow a different award model.

Recent example:

In Q1 2025, the Board approved a request from the Department of Information Technology to add two firms and increase, by \$500 million, the contract authority on the Consulting and Technical Services Plus (CATS+) master contract.

According to DoIT, the \$500 million additional contract authority is needed to provide sufficient funding in support of anticipated projects.

CATS+, which features over 800 master contractors, provides statewide IT technical and consulting services within 17 functional/service areas. Some master contracts, like CATS+, allow for additional firms/vendors to be added through an expansion window to provide opportunities for new firms to compete, or existing firms to expand to other function areas.

Since awarding the 15-year master contract in April 2013, the Board has approved over \$2.7 billion in contract authority to support CATS+ projects.

POLICY CORNER

Budgetary Actions

As the 2025 legislative session comes to a close, the top focus has been addressing the state's \$3 billion budget deficit. While BPW does not play a role in setting the budget for the next fiscal year, it does have certain budget authorities after the budget passes, specifically around approving budget cuts and creating new positions in the budget.

Cutting the budget: [State statute](#) authorizes the Governor, with approval of the BPW, to reduce certain parts of the state budget by up to 25%.

Statutes requires that the Secretary of Budget and Management publish information about any proposed reduction(s) on the Department of Budget and Management website at least seven calendar days prior to the BPW considering the proposed reduction.

The last time the Board approved a budget reduction was last July in the amount of \$148.3 million for FY 2025. Cuts were made across 22 agencies to accommodate growth in Medicaid enrollment and the Child Care Scholarship Program.

Creating positions: [State statute](#) also authorizes the BPW to create up to 100 state positions in the Executive Branch in excess of the total number authorized in each year's operating budget, commonly referred to as the "Rule of 100." The BPW may exceed

the limit of 100 positions in some instances, including (1) in the case of public emergencies, where additional personnel are necessary to protect the health and safety of the people of Maryland, and (2) when positions will be supported entirely by funds from federal or other non-state sources.

To-date for FY 2025, the BPW has approved the creation of 20 full time positions within the Rule of 100, including 10 for the Comptroller to support the state financial management system modernization project, approved last December.

Outside the "Rule of 100," the Board may also authorize the creation of positions within the Executive Branch, provided that 1.25 contractual full-time positions are abolished for each regular position authorized and that there be no increase in agency funds in the current budget and the next two subsequent budgets as the result of the action.

Budget language establishes legislative intent for priority to be given to converting individuals that have been in contractual roles for at least two years to permanent full-time positions.

To-date for FY 2025, the BPW has abolished 34.15 contractual FTE positions, while creating 27 FTE positions outside the Rule of 100.