



## 2024 CASH Campaign of Maryland Legislative Agenda

*The CASH (Creating Assets, Savings and Hope) Campaign of Maryland is a nonprofit organization that seeks to promote economic advancement for low-to-moderate income individuals and families in Baltimore and across Maryland.*

### Ensuring Economic Security for Marylanders

**Expansions for Single Filers:** The Family Prosperity Act of 2023 increased the state's match of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for single filers who are unable to claim dependents to 100% of the federal credit. CASH will advocate expanding the maximum income level for single filers unable to claim dependents to better align with our state's increased minimum wage. This expansion would reach low-wage earners including first-time expectant mothers, non-custodial parents, aging out foster-youth, single men struggling to remain engaged in the workforce, and young veterans.

**Revenue:** (Led by the Fair Funding Coalition): CASH will advocate for a fair tax system that will raise revenue for the state without placing the burden on low-income taxpayers or small businesses.

**Baby Bonds:** The goal of a Baby Bond program is to provide capital, at age 18, for young adults to begin wealth building activities like pursuing higher education, purchasing a home, starting a small business, and saving for retirement. They provide resources to children whose households have the lowest amount of wealth. They are a pathway to close the racial wealth divide and provide an equitable start for lower-income populations. This is accomplished by setting money in a pooled trust account for every low-income baby born in Maryland until eligible participants claim their share at age 18. CASH supports exploring the assorted options for a Baby Bond program in Maryland. Please read Prosperity Now's [A Brighter Future with Baby Bonds](#) to learn more.

### Strengthening the Safety Net for Workers

Social safety nets support members of our society and ensure that Marylanders can recover from financial emergencies and economic downturns.

- **Unemployment Insurance System:** Claimants are experiencing problems with the Unemployment Insurance System which is leaving many recipients without benefits or with a lower amount than they are entitled. CASH supports strengthening the unemployment system so it works for people who need it.
- **Paid Family Leave** (Led by the Time to Care Coalition): The Time to Care Act of 2022 established a state Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. The Time to Care Coalition will monitor the implementation of this program to ensure the program has the intended impact. Please visit the Time to Care Coalition [website](#) for more information.

### Increasing Consumer Protections

CASH is dedicated to supporting legislation that increases consumer protection laws and laws that protect critical systems from digital threats.

For more information, please visit [www.cashmd.org](http://www.cashmd.org) or contact Tonaeya Moore at [tonaeya@cashmd.org](mailto:tonaeya@cashmd.org)

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**Medical Debt** (Led by Economic Action Maryland and End Medical Debt Coalition): CASH will work with the [End Medical Debt Coalition](#) to ensure that hospitals cannot reject low-income patients from receiving financial assistance due to asset limits or geographic location. We will also work to ensure that medical debt does not place an undue burden on low-income patients. Check out Economic Action Maryland's [Medical Debt Freedom Fund](#).

**Student Loan Debt** (Led by Student Borrower Protection Center): CASH will fight to increase awareness of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program, protection from student loan creditors, and address institutional debt.

**Consumer Protection and Cybersecurity:** CASH supports consumer protection laws that require businesses that store personal information to increase their security and reduce predatory debt collection practices.

### **Guaranteed Income (GI) Priorities**

CASH is the nonprofit administrator for Baltimore City's guaranteed income program, the Baltimore Young Family Success Fund. This program provides 200 young parents, between 18-24 years old, with unconditional cash payments of \$1,000 per month over the course of 24 months. CASH will advocate for policies that will remove barriers to the participants' financial stability.

**Affordable Housing:** Many of our participants are struggling with homelessness, being priced out of housing options, and evictions. CASH will support legislation that will improve access to affordable housing and increase tenant rights.

**Childcare System:** A significant barrier to the participants' connection to the workforce is childcare. CASH will advocate for policies that will increase access to affordable childcare and improve Maryland's overall childcare system.

### **Promoting Economic Advancement for Low-to-Moderate Income Individuals and Families**

CASH will accomplish its mission to promote economic advancement for low-to-moderate income individuals and families through supporting legislation that will increase the financial stability of Marylanders. This includes supporting legislation that supports accessible and affordable transportation, increases access to utilities, strengthens workers' connection to the workforce, and supports nonprofits who do essential work across the state.

### **Federal Legislation**

**Child Tax Credit (CTC):** In 2021, the CTC was temporarily expanded due to the American Rescue Act of 2021. These expansions significantly cut childhood poverty throughout the country. Childhood poverty has continued to rise since the expansions ended in 2022. The CTC will be further reduced in 2025 without congressional action. CASH will advocate to expand the federal CTC so more families can be lifted out of poverty.

**For more information, please visit [www.cashmd.org](http://www.cashmd.org) or contact Tonaeya Moore at [tonaeya@cashmd.org](mailto:tonaeya@cashmd.org)**

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