



MOBILE LIBRARY LAW CENTER

The first public library system in the country to operate a mobile legal vehicle.

Foundation for Baltimore County Public Library

Created in 1998, Foundation for Baltimore County Public Library provides additional resources to enrich the library's commitment to empower the citizens of Baltimore County to explore, learn, create and connect by motivating residents of Baltimore County, regardless of age or economic circumstance, to embrace lifelong learning. A nonprofit 501c3, the Foundation's support of the library is made possible by contributions by individuals, businesses and other foundations.

A 21st Century Library

The role of the public library is evolving. We are books and so much more, offering job skills like resume writing, STEM programs for kids, free tax preparation, art classes, yoga and everything in between. These days, the services provided aren't limited to our buildings. We are out in the community, eliminating barriers and giving access to those who need it most. Over 4.1 million visitors frequent our 19 branches and the library annually serves a total of 9 million in the community.

COVID-19

While this project was designed pre-pandemic, this situation has only exacerbated the problems we hope to mitigate with this service, such as evictions and foreclosures, social welfare benefit issues and immigration and citizenship concerns. Given that this is a mobile service, we can meet people where they are, which is particularly important for those with mobility issues, such as the disabled or those without reliable transportation.

How to Participate

Be a part of something innovative that meets a need in our community.

Sponsor the Mobile Library Law Center today.

Mobile Library Law Center

In 2020, Baltimore County Public Library is launching this new initiative, building off our successful Lawyers in the Library program. Partnering with Maryland Legal Aid, our plan is to use our mobile unit to provide free legal services directly in the community to targeted groups, such as individuals with disabilities, seniors, veterans, those with low income and the justice-involved. Services provided are based upon a recognized need in our most underserved communities, reaching those who don't have access to legal services, for reasons such as immobility, lack of access to public transportation or lack of financial means. The Mobile Library Law Center can offer assistance with expungements and shielding, housing issues like evictions and foreclosures, social welfare benefits and disability issues, family law and custody matters, and citizenship and immigration concerns.

Retrofitted to include two private meeting spaces plus all the necessary electronic equipment and internet access, the vehicle has a librarian available to work one-on-one with customers to provide general legal resources with a focus on immigration, education, social welfare and health care.

Funding

To date, we have \$135,000 of the \$160,000 necessary to purchase this vehicle. Our funders are:

- **American Bar Endowment (\$50,000)**
- **Maryland Legal Services Corporation (\$35,000)**
- **Wheels for Change (\$25,000)**
- **PNC Foundation (\$20,000)**
- **Maryland Bar Foundation (\$5,000)**

For questions or for more information, contact:
Julie Saxenmeyer at Foundation for Baltimore County Public Library | 410-887-3282 or jsaxenmeyer@bcpl.net.

