



MARYLAND COMMISSIONER OF FINANCIAL REGULATION

INDUSTRY ADVISORY REGULATORY NOTICE



January 27, 2026

Notice of Availability of Application for Maryland State-Chartered Banks and Credit Unions to Earn Annual Assessment Fee Credit

The Maryland Office of Financial Regulation (OFR) announces the availability of the application for qualifying Maryland state-chartered banks and credit unions to earn an annual assessment fee credit for opening and/or maintaining branches in low- to moderate-income (LMI) communities in Maryland. The [Assessment Fee Credit application](#) guides banks and credit unions through the steps required to apply for the annual assessment fee credit established by the 2023 Maryland Access to Banking Act. Learn more on the [Maryland Access to Banking Act information page](#).

A well-capitalized Maryland state-chartered bank or credit union with a composite CAMELS rating of 1 or 2 is eligible to apply for the credit if it operated a branch location in an LMI census tract in Maryland that maintained deposits as of June 30, 2025.

Pursuant to Md. Code Ann., [Financial Institutions Article \("FI"\) § 5-203\(d\)](#) and [Financial Institutions Article § 6-712\(c\)\(4\)](#), a Maryland state-chartered bank or credit union may apply for an annual assessment fee credit based upon deposits originated and housed at a branch located in an LMI census tract, as reported to OFR as of June 30 of the most recent year. FI §§ 5-203 and 6-712 also provide guidance for calculating the amount of this assessment fee credit. The 2025 annual assessment fee credit is calculated as follows:

- i. 12 cents for each \$1,000 of deposits in a de novo branch¹ located in a low- to moderate-income census tract for the first 5 years after the date the de novo branch opened, reported as of June 30, 2025; or
- ii. 6 cents for each \$1,000 of deposits in a non-de novo branch located in a low- to moderate-income census tract based on branch deposit balances reported as of June 30, 2025, not to exceed the national deposit growth caps as reported by the

¹ The definition of a de novo branch is found at [Financial Institutions Article § 5-1001\(g\)](#) and [Financial Institutions Article § 6-712\(a\)\(2\)](#).

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) as of 12/31/2025.²

The assessment fee credit is available annually.

A deposit growth cap equal to zero or a negative number does not prevent the granting of an assessment fee credit. Rather, the assessment fee credit in a year with a zero/negative deposit growth cap for a non-de novo branch located in an LMI tract would be calculated using the lesser of the deposit amount from the most recent assessment credit, which is June 30, 2024, or June 30, 2025. The deposit growth cap limit is not applied to deposits in a qualifying de novo branch.

Banks and credit unions may opt on the application to donate any assessment fee credit received to OFR's Maryland Community Investment Venture (MCIV) Fund.³ The Maryland Access to Banking Act created this fund to serve as a catalyst for the inclusive development of technologies that will assist Maryland state-chartered banks and credit unions to better serve LMI communities through partnerships with financial technology firms. OFR is currently accepting applications from collaborating Maryland state-chartered banks, credit unions, and fintechs for grant dollars available through the MCIV Fund. Additional details are available on the [Maryland Community Investment Venture \(MCIV\) Fund webpage](#), including the MCIV Fund grant application.

Contact

For questions about this advisory notice, please contact Stephen J. Clampett, Assistant Commissioner - Corporate Activities, by phone at 410-230-6104 or by email at stephen.clampett1@maryland.gov.

The Office of Financial Regulation, a division of the Maryland Department of Labor, is Maryland's consumer financial protection agency and financial services regulator. For more information, please visit our website at www.labor.maryland.gov/finance.



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² OFR will post on its website the applicable deposit growth caps for 12/31/2025 once published by the FDIC and NCUA.

³ Pursuant to [Financial Institutions Article §2-118.1](#).