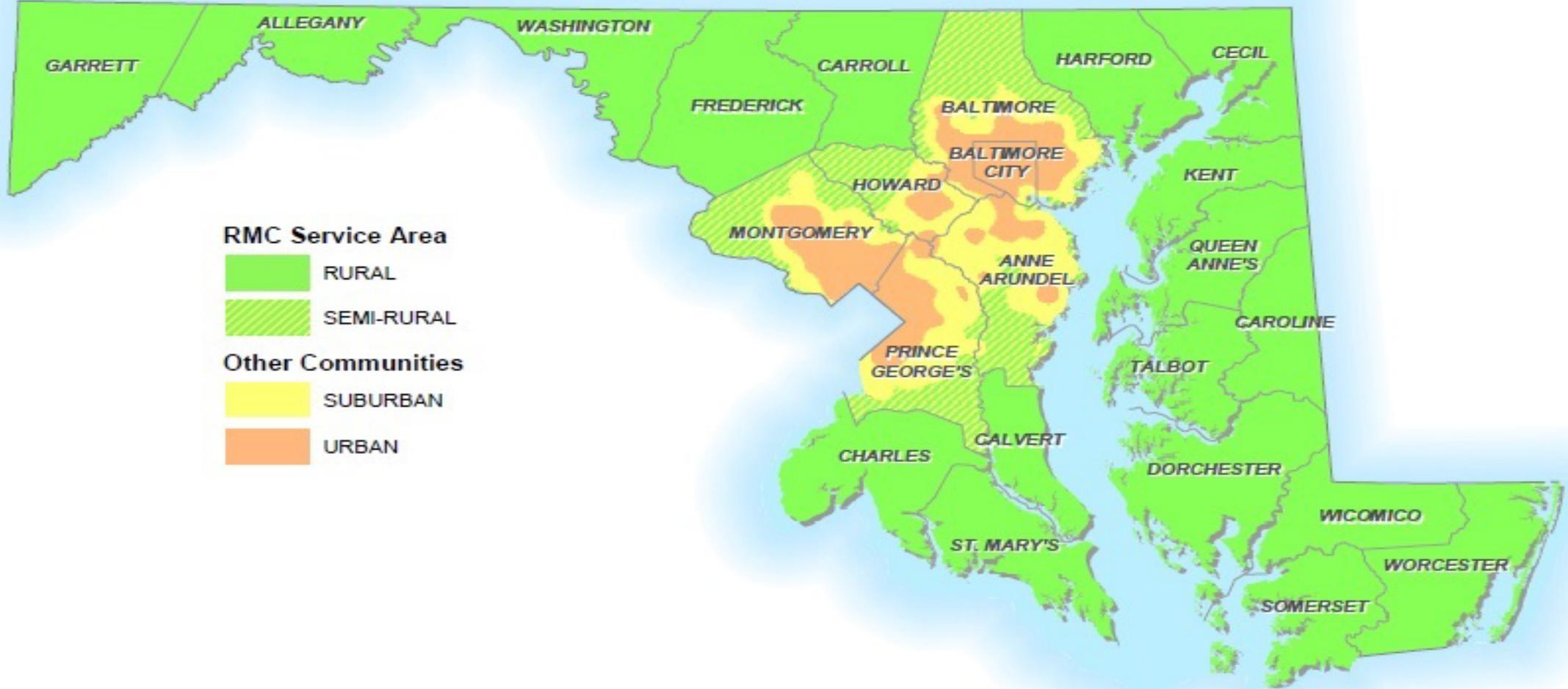


# COMMUNITIES SERVED BY THE RURAL MARYLAND COUNCIL (RMC)



# RMC Community Revitalization Activities

- ▶ Regional coalitions of community development organizations
- ▶ Capacity building through grant funds
  - ▶ Asset-building
  - ▶ Leadership development
  - ▶ Job training
- ▶ Youth assessment and engagement project
- ▶ Advocacy
  - ▶ Reinvest Maryland and Sustainable Growth

# Regional coalition building

- ▶ In partnership with state-wide association of community development organizations
- ▶ Partner with a local community development entity
- ▶ Assess needs and prominent issues specific to each region
- ▶ Meet biannually with the goal of meeting quarterly
- ▶ Results:
  - ▶ Identified the need for a CDFI in Western Maryland. Arranged for the partnership with an out of state entity looking to move into the area
  - ▶ Identified need for an affordable housing entity in Southern Maryland. Arranged for a suburban organization to expand into market

# Canal Place Cumberland Maryland



- ▶ Footer Building Development, LLC will begin the undertaking to renovate the historic building into a mixed use building, containing a restaurant and brew pub on the first floor with offices and apartments on the upper floors. The renovation is expected to cost approximately 7 million dollars which will be funded from the developer, and an additional \$1.15 million that will come from the state of Maryland.
- ▶ <http://www.nps.gov/nr/feature/places/13000460.htm>

# Capacity Building

- ▶ Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund was created by the State Legislature in 2001 to help build capacity for rural-serving nonprofits.
- ▶ To date, we have made over \$3 million of investments in our rural areas in agriculture, economic development, community development and healthcare
- ▶ The fund is in high demand. In FY 16 we received 53 applications requesting over \$890,000.
- ▶ The Grant Review Board awarded 16 grants for a total of \$167,000 in FY 2016.



# LEAD Maryland

- ▶ LEAD Maryland increases the numbers and capacity of leaders serving agriculture, natural resources, and rural communities.
- ▶ The LEAD Maryland Foundation awards a two year fellowship to selected participants, creating classes of 20-25 emerging leaders. The LEAD Fellowship curriculum focuses on providing public issues education, skills building, leadership development, and personal growth.



# Frostburg Grows

- ▶ The Frostburg Grows Project involves conversion of unused mined land to an innovative 5-acre greenhouse and shade house complex designed to train community members for high quality jobs while producing local food and tree seedlings. They employ approximately three local trainees.
- ▶ The environmental, social and economic goals of this reclamation project are to: reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce Potomac basin flooding, reduce acid mine drainage (AMD) generation, reestablish natural forested habitat on strip mined lands, create two permanent, sustainable jobs and a training facility that will help create additional job opportunities, reduce food insecurity, provide local healthy food to the residents of western Maryland and serve as a model for Appalachia.

# Frostburg Grows



# Chesapeake Culinary Center

- ▶ The Chesapeake Culinary Center is a community driven facility that promotes a positive culinary learning experience for students, and a professionally trained workforce for the hospitality industry.
- ▶ Chesapeake Culinary Center (CCC) is a grassroots, non-profit organization established in the fall of 2004 to provide culinary training to youth, students and adults. CCC provides a catering service to allow students to have practicum learning experience in the industry.





# Evergreen Heritage Center

- ▶ The Evergreen Heritage Center Foundation provides experiential learning opportunities for children and adults while teaching them to be good stewards of the environment.
- ▶ The EHC provides multiple programs for the community including:
  - ▶ Environmental education for elementary, middle and high school students county-wide serving 2200 students this year.
  - ▶ The program has increased student environmental literacy by 25-50 % measured in pre/post-tests and is a model throughout the state





- ▶ EHC offers experiential learning for college students serving over 1800 college students since 2008, providing them with real-world
- ▶ Professional Development, a program offered in partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, provides workshops for educators to teach them how to integrate meaningful outdoor experiences into the school curriculum
- ▶ Health living, an outreach program developed in partnership with the Western Maryland Health System, teaches children where their food comes from, how plants grow, and how and why to eat healthy
- ▶ Evergreen Arts, which provides both new and experience artists with the opportunity to explore the outdoors and capture their discoveries through the arts, includes art workshops, an arts summer camp and teacher training on using art to increase learning

- ▶ Community Workshops, which teach best practices in environmental conservation as well as sustainable agriculture and forestry to help promote good stewardship
- ▶ The EHC Foundation and its partners have also successfully collaborated to develop additional EHC facilities to provide more educational opportunities. These include the Heritage Hoop House, the Heritage Sawmill and woodshop, the new STEM learning pavilion and multiple learning stations.



# Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center

- ▶ Provides business training, mentoring, loan funds and coworking spaces and is the Eastern Shore's hub for startups and the entrepreneur ecosystem.
- ▶ Each training course results in 5 new businesses.
- ▶ Operates three coworking spaces across the Eastern Shore with plans to open more.



# ECHO

## Exploring Careers in Health Occupations

- ▶ ECHO is a health careers exploration program which provides multi-disciplinary experiences through a variety of learning opportunities to high school students who are interested in pursuing careers in health care.
- ▶ ECHO is the only summer residential program in the Western Maryland region that provides hands-on, interactive experiences, and exposure to a broad spectrum of health careers. As a Western Maryland AHEC signature health careers pipeline program, now entering its 10th year, the ECHO summer program provides rising 10th through 12th graders hands on experiences while exploring a wide variety of health careers, in order to nurture an interest in becoming health professionals who ultimately practice in a rural community, preferably in the Western Maryland region.

# Youth Engagement and Assessment

- ▶ In the fall 2014 semester, 2,512 6th through 12th grade students in Cecil, Kent and Queen Anne's Counties participated in an online survey to measure their perceptions of their community, future education and career plans, and desire to live in the local area in the future.
- ▶ The survey was administered in classroom environments with teacher supervision.
- ▶ The youth focus groups included over 140 representative middle school and high school students from Cecil, Kent and Queen Anne's Counties involved in student leadership roles, or enrolled in technology or vocational programs. The focus group participants worked in small groups of four to eight students to discuss their current likes and dislikes regarding their communities, and their vision for what they wanted their communities to be like in 10 years if they were to stay or return as young adults.



### LIKES

- near water
- sea food (mms)
- rural
- not much industries
- nature
- small schools
- farm land
- small town life
- family ties

### Future

- + Family ties
- + local amusement park
- + bigger homes (shops-shopping)
- + better family restaurants
- + community pool
- + better medical care

### LIKES

- Lots of land
- Pretty scenery
- Space, just wish it's not as spread out
- safe
- quiet
- size
- not over populated

### FUTURE

- YMCA
- Better job opportunities (management, ceo) Business owner
- Shopping Center
- like the ruralness though
- Chipotle (better food places)
- Broadband

### NEW HOSPITAL



- ▶ Also held three town halls with youth and parents to discuss survey and focus group results.
- ▶ Study results are available online at [youthdashboard.com](http://youthdashboard.com)
- ▶ Are developing a online resource for youth activities and jobs
- ▶ Identified several strategies including:
  - ▶ Appointing student members to government advisory boards and commissions
  - ▶ Setting aside startup funds for teen enterprises
  - ▶ Creating mentoring programs through local Chamber of Commerces



# Reinvest Maryland

- ▶ Issued by Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission after gathering public comment and stakeholder workshops
- ▶ <http://planning.maryland.gov/PDF/YourPart/773/infill2014/rMD-report-small.pdf>
- ▶ Found regulatory issues involving water and sewer infrastructure which creates a disincentive to infill development

# Advocacy

- ▶ Advocate actively for various government funds including:
  - ▶ Strategic Demolition and Smart Growth Impact Fund- \$7.5 million in FY 2016
  - ▶ Historic Preservation Funding - \$2.6 million in FY 2016
  - ▶ Sustainable Communities tax credits - \$4 million in FY 2016
  - ▶ Community Investment tax credits - \$3.5 million in FY 2016
  - ▶ One Maryland tax credit - \$5.5 million in FY 2016

# Lessons Learned

- ▶ Always cultivate partnerships, you never know who or when you'll meet them
- ▶ Need a leader or strong supporter from the community
- ▶ Leverage as many programs, funding sources and partnerships as possible



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