

February 25, 2016

Council Connections

Bridging Allegany, Garrett and Washington Counties



Tri County Council
For Western Maryland

In This Issue

[ARC Project Announcement
Allegany College of Maryland
Dental Hygiene Workforce
Development](#)

Dates to Remember

Wednesday, April 20, 2016
TCCWMD Business Meeting
Allegany County
More Details to Follow



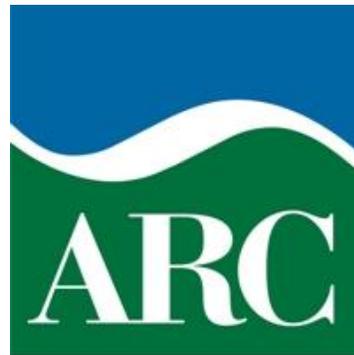
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**APPALACHIAN
REGIONAL
COMMISSION**

Project Announcement Allegany College of Maryland Dental Hygiene Workforce Development

Washington, D.C. - The Appalachian Regional Commission announced today approval of an \$87,000 grant to Allegany Community College, for equipment that will benefit Allegany College of Maryland's dental hygiene program. New equipment will improve training for approximately 100 students and 4,000 dental hygiene patients within two years.

The local, state, and national demand for dental services is expected to expand within the decade and employers in Western Maryland have expressed an immediate need for new dental hygienists. The median pay for qualified dental hygienists in Maryland in 2011 was \$76,680,

Notice of Funding Availability

Support for Volunteer Programs Targeting Community Improvements
The Home Depot Foundation: Community Impact Grants Program

Funds for Watershed and Source Water Protection Initiatives in Communities
American Water Environmental Grant Program

indicating that the field can be lucrative for well-trained professionals. Allegany College offers an Associate's Degree for dental hygienists and approximately 18 students graduate each year and are readily placed in jobs. Student instruction includes experience in a dental hygiene clinic, which offers preventive dental services on a reduced fee scale with insurance reimbursement available. However, equipment used for both instruction and clinical services needs to be replaced in order to provide the best instruction for students and service for patients.

With ARC assistance, the grantee will purchase 15 new dental hygiene units which will improve efficiency for students, reduce expensive repair costs, and help maintain hygiene services offered to the public. About 100 students and 4,000 patients will use this equipment within two years.

In addition to the ARC grant, the grantee is providing \$87,000 in matching resources, bringing the total project funding to \$174,000.

About the Appalachian Regional Commission

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is an economic development agency of the federal government and 13 state governments focusing on 420 counties across the Appalachian region. ARC's mission is to innovate, partner, and invest to build community capacity and strengthen economic growth in Appalachia and help the region achieve socioeconomic parity with the nation. More information is available at www.arc.gov.

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