

September 14, 2017

## Council Connections

Bridging Allegany, Garrett and Washington Counties



Tri County Council  
For Western Maryland

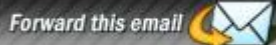
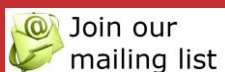
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### Dates to Remember

**Monday  
December 11, 2017  
Tri-County Council for  
Western Maryland  
Business Meeting &  
Dinner  
5:00 pm  
Location in Washington  
County to be announced**



September is

## National Preparedness Month



### Prepare for Emergencies

Smart planning can help you keep your business running if disaster strikes. You'll want to take the right steps to prevent and prepare for disaster, and know where to get aid if disaster strikes.

### Emergency Preparedness

An estimated 25 percent of businesses don't open again after a major disaster, according to the Institute for Business and Home Safety. Protect your small business by identifying the risks relevant to your location, both natural and man-made. Then, keep your plan of action updated.

Preserve your equipment and business records by referencing the [IRS Guide](#) on protecting your information before an emergency strikes. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) also offers an [emergency preparedness checklist and toolkit](#).

### SBA Learning Center

[Disaster Recovery: A guide to SBA's Disaster Assistance Programs](#)

## Notice of Funding Availability

### Heritage Fund Grants

The Heritage Fund, a cooperative effort of Preservation Maryland and the Maryland Historical Trust, provides direct assistance for the protection of historical and cultural resources and promotes innovative demonstration projects that can be successfully replicated to meet Maryland's historic preservation needs. The Fund is intended to serve the needs of tangible cultural resources in Maryland. Historic sites, buildings, districts, objects, and archaeological resources are all eligible for funding.

### Support for Music Education and Therapy Programs

Academy of Country Music: ACM Lifting Lives provides funding to nonprofit organizations throughout the United States that promote education and healing with a musical connection. Specific areas include music education programs in schools, especially at risk, underserved populations. Grants generally range from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

**Application deadline is October 4, 2017.**



U.S. Small Business Administration

## Emergency Preparedness Information

Garrett County  
Allegany County  
Washington County

## USDA Invites Applications for Value-Added Producer Grants

Value-added producer grants help agricultural producers enter into value-added activities related to processing and/or marketing bio-based, value-added products. Grant funds can cover costs related to planning activities or working capital expenses necessary for processing and marketing value-added products. Up to \$75,000 is available for planning activities and up to \$250,000 for working capital. Matching funds for 50% of total project costs are required.

Read the grant announcement [here](#). Full application instructions will soon be available [here](#).

**Apply by January 31, 2018**



For more information, applicants are encouraged to contact Business & Cooperative Programs at (302) 857-3628 before applying.