



Council Connections
Bridging Allegany, Garrett and Washington Counties
June 9, 2025

**Tri County Council Launches Flood Recovery Loans for Small Businesses
in Western Maryland**

Western Maryland – June 9, 2025 – In the wake of the severe flooding that impacted parts of Western Maryland on May 13, the Tri County Council for Western Maryland has launched a new **Small Business Flood Recovery Loan Program** to support local businesses affected by the disaster.

Funded primarily through the state-administered **Video Lottery Terminal (VLT) program**, the loans offer up to **\$20,000 at 0% interest**, with **no application fees** and repayment terms ranging from **2 to 5 years**. Eligible businesses may use the funds for flood-related cleanup, equipment or inventory replacement, and lost revenue.

To date, the program has received **10 inquiries**, with the **first loan closing on June 2** for **Evergreen Heritage Center** near Mount Savage. Evergreen, which annually hosts thousands of visitors, experienced significant damage to its roads, trails, and historic coal mine exhibit due to high runoff and flooding. Despite the challenges, the center reopened in time to continue hosting field trips for local 4th-grade students. The loan will allow Evergreen to spread the cost of repairs over several years, easing the burden of unexpected expenses.

“We’re proud to act quickly to help businesses and organization get back on their feet,” said **Christie Wakefield**, Business Development Analyst at Tri County Council.

A photo of the check presentation to **Janice Keene**, President and Founder of Evergreen Heritage Center, is included below.

For more information about the loan program or to apply, contact Tri County Council at 301-689-1300 or relief@tccwmd.org.



Evergreen Heritage Center: Flood Damage, 5-13-25

Due to a May 13th flooding event in Allegany County, Maryland, Evergreen sustained damage to its property including its access roads and trails. While we were spared damage to our historical resources, our infrastructure took a hard hit. Water ravaged our access roads to the large parking lot and our historic barn. As a result, tons of gravel flowed from the roads into our orchard below the barn, and a large section of trail in the coal camp was destroyed. To avoid future damage, new drainage pipes have been installed and runoff trenches put in place. Repairs to the roads, trails, fields, and museum grounds are ongoing to keep our programming and events on track for students and other visitors.



Photo Key

1. Coal Camp trail flooding,
2. Road to large parking lot
3. Approximately 30" deep gauge in road
4. Road to Barn flooding,
5. Flooding from Barn road area to field
6. Streams moving gravel from road to field



Tri-County Council for Western Maryland | 301-689-1300

11 S. Lee Street, Cumberland, MD 21502 | www.tccwmd.org

