



Council Connections

Bridging Allegany, Garrett and Washington Counties

April 24, 2026

Tri County Council for Western Maryland: A fresh look for the path ahead

Our team is pleased to share with you the new branding for Tri County Council for Western Maryland. As the organization has undergone several changes in the last year and there are several new projects and programs on the horizon for 2026, we felt that it was an appropriate time to update our look to reflect the new work and vision.

The logo is designed to depict the 3 counties working and moving forward together, The mountains accurately depict the worn Appalachian Mountains which is tied to our identity within Maryland and link us to our peer Appalachian communities in the ARC region. The badge also features the founding date of TCCWMD - 1972 - demonstrating the longevity of the organization and work we do. The color palette is comprised of neutral earth tones, reflecting the importance of nature in our region to our sense of place and wellbeing.

We hope you love our new look as much as we do! And stay tuned - there is more new news coming soon!





Maryland Rural Health Transformation Program

Now Open: FY2027 Grant Opportunity

**\$4.6M in Funding for Rural Food Access & Health Initiatives Now
Open - Apply by May 15!**

Transforming Rural Health Through Food Systems

To support initiatives that improve access to healthy, locally sourced food across rural communities. The program will support projects that expand post-harvest infrastructure for small farms, enhance food distribution through food hubs and mobile markets, and increase procurement of local foods by institutions such as schools, hospitals, and community organizations. Additional priorities include advancing nutrition education and supporting regional coordination to address food insecurity in rural “hot spot” communities.

Two funding opportunities are available:

- Food Aggregation (Supply Side) – Build or expand systems that connect local farmers to larger buyers.
- Purchasing Strategy (Demand Side) – Help institutions transition to buying more local, healthy foods.

Funding can support planning, infrastructure, equipment, and systems that strengthen local food access.

Details are available on the Rural Maryland Council website by following [this link](#) and by joining the **Grant Information Session** on Thursday, April 30, 2026.

The Zoom Teleconference will be held from 12:00pm-2:00pm. Register [here](#) to attend.

Amazon Web Services AI Pitch Competition

Sponsored by AWS & PREDICTif



Thursday, May 14, 2026, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Western Maryland Works,
37 Lane Ave., LaVale, Maryland 21505.

Hosted by Maryland SBDC and Frostburg State University

Serving Garrett, Allegany and Washington Counties in Maryland

This isn't your typical pitch competition. The AI Showcase is a curated experience designed to spotlight visionary organizations doing extraordinary things. Handpicked for their innovation and potential, each participating team will present a challenge or concept - ranging from fully formed AI initiatives to early-stage ideas in need of technical support.

In front of a panel of AWS industry experts, showcase participants receive real-time feedback, guidance, and up to \$50,000 in AWS and PREDICTif services to help bring their vision to life. Up to 10 finalists will compete for up to \$50K in AWS & PREDICTif services. Join top AI innovators as they present their groundbreaking solutions to a panel of expert judges. Experience the future of AI in Maryland. Free to attend: Registration is required and limited to 110 attendees.

Register to attend: <https://mdsbdc.ecenterdirect.com/events/18502>

**Applications are open from April 1 to April 30, 2026.
Entry deadline is April 30th at 11:59 p.m. (EST).**

Email full application materials to jdbroadwater@frostburg.edu



The Maryland SBDC Program is funded in part through a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Visit the [SBDC Training Calendar](#) for more Event Opportunities

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