



## **Council Connections**

**Bridging Allegany, Garrett and Washington Counties**

**June 11, 2026**



### **Help Shape the Future of Rural Maryland**

The Rural Maryland Council is asking residents, business owners, and community leaders to share their experiences in a quick 10-minute survey.

Your input will guide legislative advocacy, strengthen program priorities, and inform future funding decisions for the Rural Maryland Capacity Building Fund and two grant programs—the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) and the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF).

#### **What Your Feedback Supports**

- Local economic development
  - Rural health and wellness
- Agriculture and natural resources
- Broadband & infrastructure investments
- Small business and workforce development

**Make an Impact in Minutes — Take the Survey!**

Your voice. Your community. Your future.  
Scan the QR code



## **Appalachian Regional Commission Invests in Strengthening Western Maryland**



The [Appalachian Regional Commission \(ARC\)](#) has made a series of recent investments in the long-term economic future of Western Maryland. Earlier this year, more than \$685,000 in strategic funding was awarded to five projects across Allegany and Garrett counties, supporting everything from entrepreneurship and workforce development to arts, infrastructure, and economic development planning.

These grants are part of larger efforts to strengthen small businesses, modernize infrastructure, and create new opportunities for residents across the Appalachian region. Established in 1965 as a partnership between the federal government and 423 counties across 13 Appalachian states, ARC directs funding toward projects that address economic disparities and growth potential within these regions. Rather than a one-size-fits-all approach, ARC works directly with state and local partners to identify investments that have lasting impacts and are best suited to meet the diverse needs of each individual community.

During more than 60 years in operation, [ARC has made nearly 35,000 targeted investments and invested more than \\$6.1 billion in the Appalachian region. In Maryland alone, the agency has supported 23 projects totaling \\$4.8 million just during the last fiscal year.](#) The partnership between ARC and the State of

Maryland also works to train and educate 1,900 students and workers, as well as benefit 251,000 residents across Garrett, Allegany and Washington counties.

The allotted investments for the state include funding for Allegany College of Maryland to expand access to capital for rural businesses; upgrades to water and wastewater systems in Garrett County; and the creation of a professional recording studio at Frostburg State University. Other funded efforts, like an economic impact study for future development of the City of Cumberland, will help play a role in the economic longevity of these communities.

[Maryland Department of Commerce Press Release](#)  
[Learn more about ARC's Investment Priorities for Appalachia](#)



### **Standing Out in a Crowded Marketplace**

June 16, 2026

1:00PM - 2:00PM

Cost: Free

For more details and to Register, follow [this link](#).

### **Your Customers Are Asking ChatGPT - How To Make Sure They Find You In Their Results**

June 18, 2026

1:00AM - 2:00PM

Cost: Free

For more details and to Register, follow [this link](#).

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

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