



Council Connections

Bridging Allegany, Garrett and Washington Counties
July 16, 2026



In the Region

Hagerstown Community College Receives ARC Grant for “Blueprints to Success: Expanding Apprenticeship and Skilled Trades Programs”

Hagerstown Community College will use these funds to [purchase new equipment for its high-demand electrical and HVAC skilled trades programs](#) that are housed within the Bowman Training Center.

Appalachian Maryland faces a growing labor shortage in the construction and trades, with demand for HVAC technicians, carpenters, plumbers and electricians expected to rise. Through this project, HCC will purchase and install high-tech training equipment, including low voltage/alarm trainers (for electrical training), drill presses and other carpentry equipment and an oil furnace (for HVAC training). These items will allow HCC instructors to provide students with hands-on training in these growing fields.

View the full press release [here](#).

Tri County Council for Western Maryland's Revolving Loan Fund Small Business Lending Can be Simply Summarized: Create or Retain Jobs

In an effort to focus on keeping strong small businesses going and growing in our community and to retain jobs, Tri County Council is pleased to be supporting the **SBDC Legacy Series**, an excellent educational opportunity for business owners planning for the next generation of their business. This program provides valuable information from industry experts at an excellent value. For Western Marylander's it will culminate with a ½ day in person seminar, featuring real world success stories from the region.

Tri County Council is pleased to partner with SBDC, and all three Chambers of Commerce in Western Maryland to bring this series to fruition, because we all recognize the importance of retaining the longstanding businesses in our part of the state.

If you—or someone you know—could benefit, we encourage you to review the information below, register, and share this opportunity with others.

America's SBDC MARYLAND **TRI COUNTY COUNCIL** **THE CHAMBER ALLEGANY COUNTY, MD** **GARRETT COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HOME OF DEEP CREEK LAKE** **the chamber WASHINGTON COUNTY, MD**

Maryland Small Business Development Center

Legacy Planning For Your Business Series (Virtual)

**September 2 - October 28, 2026; Wednesdays at 3PM
(With the Exception of October 14)**

**Cost: \$79 Tuition Reduced Due To Partial Sponsorship by
Tri-County Council, Allegany County, MD**

Secure Your Legacy with Business Transition Planning

The Legacy Planning For Your Business Program, through a series of trainings presented by professionals who are subject matter experts in the areas listed below, will assist you through the important and crucial steps to begin planning your business transition.

**To register, scan code or visit
<https://mdsbdc.ecenterdirect.com/events/18598>**

POWERED BY SBA **UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND**

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



The Maryland Business AI Benchmark

The State of Maryland invites you to participate in the Maryland Business AI Benchmark, a statewide effort to better understand how businesses are approaching artificial intelligence.

The survey takes approximately 10-15 minutes to complete and responses will be collected until **July 17, 2026**.

The State is seeking input from individuals who have responsibility for or influence over decisions related to Artificial Intelligence (AI) within their businesses. Whether your business is not using AI at all, actively exploring its potential, or already integrating AI into day-to-day operations, we want to hear from you.

Your responses will directly shape how the state designs future grants, training, and adoption guidance to help businesses succeed in the AI economy.

Upon completion, participants will receive access to AI-related resources available through the State of Maryland.

[Take the Survey](#)

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