

CHECKLIST AND TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPLICANT: Town of Chesapeake City

NAME OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY: Chesapeake City

Please review the checklist of attachments and furnish all of the attachments that are applicable. Contents of the application should be tabbed and organized as follows:

☐ **Section A - Sustainable Community Renewal Applicant Information**

- [Applicant Information](#)

☐ **Section B – Sustainable Community Renewal Report (Projects, Strategies and Partners)**

- [Part 1: Qualitative Assessment](#)
- [Part 2: Comprehensive Assessment](#)
- [Competitive Funding](#)

☐ **Section C – Sustainable Community Renewal Action Plan Update (Matrix)**

- [Action Plan](#)

☐ **Section D – Sustainable Communities Workgroup Roster**

☐ **Section E – Signature Letter (acknowledging Disclosure Authorization and Certification)**

- [Disclosure Authorization](#)

☐ **Section F – Additional Files:** The following contents should be included:

- If requesting a boundary modification, map in pdf format and a GIS shapefile of the proposed Sustainable Community boundary
- [Photos \(jpeg format\) of your aforementioned accomplished projects of the last five years](#)

SGSC Approved - 7.23

SECTION A.

I. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Sustainable Community:		Chesapeake City	
Name of Applicant:		Town of Chesapeake City	
Applicant's Federal Identification Number:		52-6003458	
Applicant's Street Address:		108 Bohemia Ave	
City: Chesapeake City	County: Cecil	State: MD	Zip Code: 21915
Phone Number: 410 885 5298	Fax Number: 410 885 2515	Web Address: www.chesapeakecity-md.gov	

Sustainable Community Application Local Contact:

Name: Robert Bernstine		Title: Town Manager	
Address: 108 Bohemia Ave.	City: Chesapeake City	State: MD	Zip Code: 21915
Phone Number: [REDACTED]	Fax Number: [REDACTED]	E-mail Address: [REDACTED]	

Sustainable Community Contact for Application Status:

Name: Robert Bernstine		Title: Town Manager	
Address: 108 Bohemia Ave.	City: Chesapeake City	State: MD	Zip Code: 21915
Phone Number: [REDACTED]	Fax Number: [REDACTED]	E-mail Address: [REDACTED]	

Other Sustainable Community Contacts:

Name: Tonya Lockwood		Title: Clerk	
Address: 108 Bohemia Ave.	City: Chesapeake City	State: MD	Zip Code: 21915
Phone Number: [REDACTED]	Fax Number: [REDACTED]	E-mail Address: [REDACTED]	

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY – General Information

A. Sustainable Community Boundary and Description

- (1) Are you requesting any changes to your Sustainable Community boundary? Describe why or why not?

No changes are required at this time.

- (2) If yes, Include the following in as an attachment:

- PDF or JPEG of modified Sustainable Communities boundary map,
- GIS shapefiles of modified Sustainable Community boundary (mapped to the parcel boundary),

- (3) Approximate number of acres of entire SC Area: _____

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application

(4) Existing federal, state or local designations:

- ☐ Main Street ☐ Maple Street
☒ National Register Historic District ☒ Local Historic District ☐ Arts & Entertainment District
☐ State Enterprise Zone Special Taxing District ☐ BRAC ☐ State Designated TOD
☐ Other(s):

(5) Describe the SC Area's current demographic trends (with respect to age, race, household size, household income, educational attainment, number of housing units, or other relevant factors). How have demographics changed in the last five years?

There has not been a major shift in the Town's demographics. Most indices show slight increases. Population has increased from 713 to 736. There have also been minor increases in median age, median income, and the diversity of the community. The following summary was taken from the 2020 Decennial Census and the 2021 American Community Survey.

Population: 736

Race and Ethnicity

White: 89.5%

Hispanic: 4.3%

Black: 2.2%

Other: 3.9%

Housing units: 408

Median Age: 56.6

Median Household Income: \$58,958

Poverty: 17.3%

B. Organizational Structure, Experience and Public Input:

(1) Describe any changes to the Applicant's organizational structure. Specifically, how has membership of the Sustainable Communities Workgroup changed in the last five years? Who are/were the leaders, and how will/did the Workgroup advisor or staff manage implementation of the SC Area Plan?

There have not been any major changes to the Sustainable Communities Workgroup. The group is made up of elected officials, appointed members of commissions, members of committees, Town staff members, liaisons with fire company, and members of the chamber of commerce. Individual members have left the group but have been replaced by members of their respective organizations.

- 1. Mayor*
- 2. Town Economic Development Dept. Head*
- 3. Planning Commission / Town Council Liaison*
- 4. Chesapeake City Chamber of Commerce representative*
- 5. Town Manager*
- 6. Town Treasurer*
- 7. Historic Commission Chair*
- 8. Parks & Recreation Committee representative*
- 9. Chesapeake City Volunteer Fire Co. representative*

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application

- (2) What have been the strengths and challenges of the capacity of the Sustainable Communities Workgroup with respect to implementation of the SC Plan?

The workgroup has extensive work experience in private industry as well as local municipal government. All of the members of the group have a tremendous affinity for the Town and would like to see the Town move forward while maintaining the Town's character and charm. It is a challenge to plan and implement projects with mainly volunteers and a small staff.

- (3) How did residents and other stakeholders in the community provide input to the Sustainable Communities Action Plan update? On which existing local plans (comprehensive plans, economic development plans, sector plans, etc.) is the Sustainable Communities Action Plan based?

The Mayor and Town Council conduct biweekly public meetings where items are discussed and reviewed with the community. The Planning and Zoning Commission also conduct biweekly meetings. The Historic Commission meets once a month, and the Parks Committee also meets monthly. Although not part of the municipal government the Town works closely with the Chamber of Commerce.

Our Comprehensive Plan is the driving document for the Town's future. The Town has a Comprehensive Plan committee who are currently updating the Plan. The plan will be reviewed and approved by both the Town Council and the planning Commission. Each body will hold public hearings for input.

- (4) Would you like any technical assistance from State agencies to help expand the capacity of your SC Workgroup or implement your SC plan? Please describe with which revitalization strategies you would like assistance.

At this time the Town does not believe assistance is needed to complete the Sustainable Communities plan. Consultation and technical assistance on implementation would be very helpful.

SECTION B.

Descriptive Narrative: Please list the most significant accomplishments that apply.

Accomplishment 1:

Outcome: Improvements to Water and Sewer Infrastructure

Projects:

- A. We have completed the new water tower. The Tower provides 250,000 gallons of elevated water storage. Prior to the new water tower the Town did not have adequate supply or pressure for fire protection. The Tower also allows for emergency storage and use during a major repair. Prior to the Tower typically the entire Town service would be shut off affecting schools, businesses and residents. The old Tower within the town center was demolished with the metal saved and recycled. The project was completed in March 2020 with a cost was \$ 2.1 million.
- B. We are nearing completion (93%) of our new Wastewater Treatment Plant. Planning for the project began over 20 years ago, with construction commencing December 2020. The project combines two failing plants into one new 200,000 gallon per day facility. Both old plants were well beyond their life and continued to have multiple monthly violations. The project's budget is \$ 13.5 million.
- C. We replaced 600' failing water main on Mt. Nebo Road. The funded the project with a cost of \$60,000 during November 2021.

Partners: MDE, USDA and Cecil County Board of Education

Impact: Water and Sewer infrastructure effects almost all areas of the sustainable community's plan. Clean water, and properly treated sewage is critical to Environment, Economic, Quality of Life, Housing, Land Use and Planning elements.

Accomplishment 2:

Outcome: Multiple public works projects have been completed that improved pedestrian access, vehicular movement, and stormwater improvements in Town.

Projects:

- A. New Sidewalks
 1. First Street Sidewalk (east) - The Town partnered with a business owner to install 75' of new brick sidewalk with granite curbing.
 2. First Street Sidewalk (west) - The Town installed 220' of new brick sidewalk with granite curbing. The majority of the funding was from DHCD. The total cost of the project was \$109,600 with \$100,000 as a grant. The project was completed 12/2022.
- B. Sidewalk repair or replacement
 1. Sidewalk replacement – The Town replaced sidewalk on Charles Street at a cost of \$7,500 on 11/2020.
 2. Sidewalk grinding – The Town removed multiple tripping hazards by having the sidewalks ground in 94 locations throughout Town. The Town funded the project of \$11,000 in 11/2022.
 3. Sidewalk replacement – The Town worked with local business to replace 50' concrete sidewalk and replace another 50' of sidewalk with brick and granite curbing.
- C. Street Paving
 1. Paving Ferry Slip Road – The Town paved 230' of roadway for \$ 8,160 in 10/2020
 2. Paving First Street – The Town repaired and paved 180' of roadway \$9,180 in 8/2020.
- D. Parking
 1. Schaefer's Parking Lot – The Town worked with a local business owner to create a new parking lot with 120 parking spaces. The new lot greatly reduced overcrowding on Town streets.
- E. Stormwater
 1. First Street (east) – The town replaced collapsed stormwater pipe in 8/2020 for a project cost of \$21,700.
 2. First Street (west) – As part of the new sidewalk installation a collapsed section of storm water pipe was replaced. Project cost was \$2,300.
 3. Schaefer's – As part of the new parking lot, upstream and downstream improvements including new piping, catch basins, and submerged gravel wetland, greatly reduced neighborhood flooding.

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application

Partners: DHCD, SHA, public/private partnership, and private investment

Impact: The public works projects described above touch on multiple elements of the Sustainable Communities Plan. Environmental, Economic, Transportation, Community Health and Quality of Life and Community Planning.

Accomplishment 3:

Outcome: Assist residents in maintaining their homes.

Projects: Façade Grant – The Town participated in the Façade Grant Program with funding from DHCD. The program has been very successful. It has helped multiple residents on both sides of the Canal maintain and improve their homes. A summary is listed below:

Year	Grant Amount	Grants Awarded
2019	\$50,000	7
2020	\$25,000	5
2021	\$35,000	6
2022	\$35,000	10

Partners: Homeowners and DHCD

Impact: The façade grant program is a tremendous help to households that have been awarded grant funds, but a secondary impact is felt as their neighbors are inspired to take on maintenance projects with their own financing. Housing and Quality of Life are elements of the plan that are directly impacted, while the Economy element is improved as property values increase though out Town.

Accomplishment 4:

Outcome: The Town completed several projects that improved the Quality of Life if its residents and visitors.

Projects:

- A. Helen Titter Restroom – The Town, with funding from DNR and Program Open Space, completed a restroom facility in Helen Titter Park. In addition to use by visitors of the park, the facilities are planned to be part of a future trail head for the Ben Cardin Trail.
- B. Boat Ramp – In lieu of closing the Town is now operating the boat ramp in Back Creek Basin.
- C. Chesapeake City Museum – Recently opened museum about the local history of the Town.
- D. C&D Canal Museum – The Town has provided staffing to keep the C&D museum open on weekends.
- E. Bike Rental – The Town is working with a local business to provide self-service bike rentals on both sides of the Canal.
- F. Water Taxi Increased Service – The Town has worked with the operator of the water taxi service that connects north and south sides of the canal to increase ridership by offering more scheduled trips.
- G. Community Events
 - a. Horse parade (new)
 - b. Christmas Market (new)
 - c. Sip and Stroll (new)
 - d. Winter Nights Cecil Lights (new)
 - e. Taste of Chesapeake City (new)
 - f. Candlelight House Tour
 - g. July 4th Celebration
 - h. Chesapeake City Car Show
 - i. Easter Egg Hunt
 - j. (2) 5K races that support the Town's recycling program

Partners: DNR, Army Corp of Engineers, Chesapeake City Chamber of Commerce, and Chesapeake City Civic District Association

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application

Impact: *Quality of Life is one of the elements that is most dear to the residents of Chesapeake City. The projects listed above are good examples of the amenities that our residents and visitors enjoy. The associated tourism is also a major driver of our Economy.*

Descriptive Narrative: Please use this section to describe any major outcomes or projects from your last Sustainable Communities Action Plan that have NOT been accomplished and why.

Outcome: *Farmers Market*

Narrative: *The Town set up a farmers' market that ran for two years, 2020 and 2021. There was not enough traffic to support the vendors. The Town provided financial support by advertising for the event.*

Outcome: *Public Transportation*

Narrative: *The Town worked with Cecil Transit to set up a transportation stop in Chesapeake City. The Town subsidized the fare and provided advertising for the service. After several months there was not enough ridership to continue the service.*

Outcome: *Affordable Housing*

Narrative: *The Town is planning for growth as defined in our Comprehensive Development Plan. The plan calls for denser or more affordable multifamily homes closer to the existing older communities and less dense further from the town center. Although there have been several discussions with developers the Town would like to ensure the new waste water facility is working properly and we are well on our way to fix inflow and infiltration (I&I) problems with our collection system prior to growth.*

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application

ENVIRONMENT	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
1. Has there been an improvement in water quality? Have you completed any projects intended to improve water quality? Ex. impervious surface reduction, stormwater improvements etc.	✓			<p><i>Several stormwater projects have been completed that range from replacing failed infrastructure to new submerged gravel wetlands.</i></p> <p><i>The Town works with property owners to comply with Critical Area regulations, by applying best practices, included plantings with native Maryland species.</i></p>
2. Have you improved wildlife habitat in your community? Ex. native plantings, pollinator gardens, rain gardens	✓			<p><i>The Town maintains and continues to use rain barrels and a rain garden at Town Hall.</i></p>
3. Have you increased access to green space, parks or outdoor recreational opportunities?	✓			<p><i>Little League has added 4.5 acres of undeveloped land to their campus.</i></p>
4. Have you implemented operational sustainability practices (example: town hall enhancements) and/or community-based practices? (ex. Rain barrels or rain gardens at residences, recycling, composting etc)	✓			<p><i>The Town maintains and continues to use rain barrels and a rain garden at Town Hall. The Town has a robust recycling program. For the past 12 years, Chesapeake City has had the highest level of recycling in Cecil County.</i></p> <p><i>The Town is working with Delmarva Electric to install electric vehicle charging stations.</i></p>

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application

ECONOMY	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
1. Has there been an increase in the number of new businesses in your Main Street/ Commercial District?	✓			<i>Several new businesses have replaced businesses that have left Town or closed. New businesses to Town include:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wedding chapel - Toy store - (2) Clothing stores - Rum Bar and small brewery - Real estate office - Yoga studio
2. Did the Municipality/ Sustainable Community area receive any designations that support local economic development?		✓		<i>There have been no changes to warrant for the Town to apply for Arts and Entertainment District.</i>
3. Has there been an increase in foot traffic in the Main Street/commercial district?	✓			<i>Foot traffic and Tourism in Chesapeake City has increased since the start of the COVID 19 pandemic.</i>
4. Have the number of commercial vacancies decreased?			✓	<i>Empty real estate is quickly replaced by new businesses.</i>
5. Has there been an increase in local jobs within the Sustainable Community for its residents?	✓			<i>Restaurants have expanded and added to their workforce.</i>
6. Has there been an increase in workforce development training or other opportunities for connecting potential employees to well-paying jobs?		✓		<i>The Town depends on local education through Cecil County Public Schools, Cecil College, and other County workforce training programs.</i>

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application

TRANSPORTATION	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
1. Has the amount of bike trails/paths increased? How many linear feet do the trails cover?		✓		<i>The Town would like to add a trail on the south side of the Canal, similar to the Ben Cardin Trail.</i>
2. Have there been improvements to the public transit infrastructure?		✓		<i>The Town worked with Cecil Transit to set up a transportation stop in Chesapeake City. The Town subsidized the fare and provided advertising for the service. After several months there was not enough ridership to continue the service.</i>
3. Has there been an increase in sidewalks? (Amount in linear feet). Were accessibility elements added, such as more ADA-accessible ramps and signage/signals? Has there been a noticeable increased use of these walking places?	✓			<i>The Town has installed or replaced 800' of ADA accessible sidewalk.</i>
4. Have there been any roadway improvements that support "Complete" or "Green" streets?	✓			<i>The Town has replaced several locations of failing stormwater infrastructure.</i>
5. Has traffic congestion along major roads decreased? (Amount in percent)			✓	<i>The Town does not have any major congestion; however, our Village Center district utilizes a grid system supported by alleys that provide alternate routes in case of a street closures.</i>

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application

HOUSING	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
1. Have any residential facades or interiors been improved? Has the energy efficiency of any housing units been increased?	✓			<i>The Façade grant program has been very successful with 28 homes being improved with \$145,000 in funds awarded. Most of the projects improved energy efficiency by replacing roofs, windows, and siding.</i>
2. Has the homeownership rate increased?		✓		<i>There has been no significant change in home ownership.</i>
3. Has there been an increase in the number of housing units in the Sustainable Community area? What number and/or percent are affordable? How many are within .5 miles of a transit stop?		✓		<i>There has not been any new development in Town. The Town works with Cecil County transit who provide a demand response system for public transportation.</i>
4. Has there been demolition of blighted properties?	✓			<i>There have been several properties that have been demolished and replaced with new homes.</i>
5. Has the residential vacancy rate decreased?		✓		<i>There has been no significant change in the vacancy rate. There are only a few vacant homes in Chesapeake City.</i>
6. Has the jurisdiction partnered with any community development corporations to improve its housing stock, increase the availability of		✓		<i>The Town is planning for growth as defined in our Comprehensive Development Plan. The plan calls for denser or more affordable multifamily homes closer to the existing older communities and less dense further from the town center. Although there have been several discussions with developers the Town would like to ensure the new wastewater facility is working properly and we are well on our way to fix inflow and infiltration (I&I) problems with our collection system prior to growth.</i>

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application

affordable housing, or support those experiencing homelessness or being threatened with eviction? Has the jurisdiction initiated any of its own programs to do the same?				<p><i>The Town has been reviewing concepts for redevelopment of the old Chesapeake City elementary School. Options being considered include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Community center with senior housing</i> - <i>Residential community guided by our Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND) zoning</i> - <i>Hotel</i>
7. Has there been an increase in homeownership counseling services or individuals accessing such services?		✓		<i>The Town depends on services at the County level.</i>

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application

COMMUNITY HEALTH & QUALITY OF LIFE	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
1. How many historic properties were renovated/improved? To your knowledge, did the renovations mitigate certain environmental hazards such as lead and asbestos?	✓			<i>In addition to the homes renovated via the façade grant program, there is continual renovation needed to maintain the homes in the historic district. The work performed in the district is reviewed and approved by the Historic District Commission. Various lead and asbestos abatement projects have been completed in Town.</i>
2. Have there been improvements and/or additions to your public or community available spaces? Examples include museums, community centers, public plazas, murals and public art.	✓			<i>The Chesapeake City District Civic Association (CCDCA) has opened a new museum about the history of Chesapeake City.</i>
3. Are there opportunities for residents to gather, communicate and celebrate? Do they serve multi-generations and all populations in the community? Examples are wide-ranging and may include fairs, community history days, neighborhood meetings, etc.	✓			<i>The Town has multiple special events throughout year. During the summer there are free weekend concerts in Pell Gardens.</i>
4. Have there been any changes in access to health and wellness services? Examples include mobile clinics, hospitals, telehealth opportunities.		✓		<i>Most access to health and wellness services would come from Cecil County. The Town does have a family doctor and a dentist practice in Town.</i>

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application

5. Are there any residential health and wellness opportunities in place (i.e. athletic facilities, recreational indoor/outdoor courses or groups)?	✓			<i>Being a rural setting there are many outdoor recreational opportunities. The Town has multiple parks and trails for recreation or exercise. The Chesapeake City Little League has just added 4.5 acres to their complex. A yoga studio has been a recent addition to Town.</i>
6. Do all residents have access to healthy food options such as fresh food grocery stores, farmers markets, community gardens, etc., within the Sustainable Community?		✓		<i>Although there are multiple restaurants there are no grocery stores in Town. The Town initiated a farmers' market but there was not enough of a draw to support the market.</i>
7. Has there been a decrease in crime rate?			✓	<i>There is very little crime in Chesapeake City and not any significant changes in the crime rate.</i>
8. Do all residents have access to the Internet and other basic utilities and services?	✓			<i>There are several choices for residents to obtain high speed internet access in town.</i>

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application

LOCAL PLANNING & STAFFING CAPACITY	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
1. Have there been any infill developments?	✓			<i>Several new homes have been built to replace older homes. There have not been any new developments in Town.</i>
2. Has there been an increase in the amount of preserved/protected land?	✓			<i>The Chesapeake City Little League has just added 4.5 acres to their complex. The property was initially planned for townhome development.</i>
3. Have there been any developments hindered by growth constraints? If so, please describe. Example constraints could be inadequate infrastructure, insufficient zoning density/intensity, or lack of buildable land.	✓			<i>Although there have been several discussions with developers the Town would like to ensure the new wastewater facility is working properly and we are well on our way to fix inflow and infiltration (I&I) problems with our collection system prior to growth. As defined in our Comprehensive Plan most development is to occur in the Tradition Neighborhood Development (TND) district, which encourages development that matches the character of Chesapeake City. The TND district is defined by narrow lots with homes with front porches close to the street and alleys in the rear of the property. Neighborhood village greens provide open space for the community. Several developers have commented that TND does not fit with their current product offerings.</i>
4. Have there been any zoning or policy changes that have fostered growth or redevelopment in your Sustainable Community?	✓			<i>The Town has updated several sections of our Comprehensive Development Ordinance (CDO). Parking / Landscaping, Critical Area, and Signage are sections of the zoning ordinance that have been improved.</i> <i>The Town is currently reviewing and updating our Comprehensive Plan.</i>

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application

5. Have there been any significant improvements to the municipal infrastructure within the Sustainable Community (i.e. street lighting, water/sewer lines)?	✓			<i>The Town has added a new water storage tower, and nearing completion of our new wastewater facility.</i>
6. Have you hired any new staff members, reassigned duties, or procured the services of a contractor to increase or better align local capacity? Have you implemented any professional development programs?	✓			<i>Several staff positions in Town have been realigned to optimize workflow.</i>
7. Has your community initiated or completed any planning efforts that will support the Sustainable Community area, including comprehensive planning, small area planning, or planning studies?	✓			<i>The Town has set up a Comprehensive Plan Committee in 2022 to review and update our comprehensive plan.</i>

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application

COMPETITIVE FUNDING: Use the rows below to list competed funds sought for sustainability or revitalization projects since receiving Sustainable Communities designation.	Source (federal, state, foundation, etc.)	Amount Received	If no funding was received, what technical or other assistance from the state would help with future applications?	Other Notes
Community Legacy (CL): 1. <i>Façade Grant</i> 2. <i>Street scape – First Street Sidewalk</i>	DHCD	1. <i>\$145,000</i> 2. <i>\$100,000</i>		
Program Open Space 1. <i>Restroom – Helen Titter Park</i>	DNR	1. <i>\$100,000</i>		
Bay Restoration Fund: 1. <i>BNR funding for new Wastewater Treatment Plant</i>	MDE	1. <i>\$6,868,900</i>		
Drinking Water Supply Grant: 1. <i>Grant for new Water Tower</i>	MDE	1. <i>\$1,027,515</i>		
USDA Rural Development: 1. <i>Grant for new Wastewater Treatment Plant</i> 2. <i>Grant for new Water Tower</i>	USDA	1. <i>\$6,528,700</i> 2. <i>\$594,000</i>		
USDA Rural Development: 1. <i>Loan for new Wastewater Treatment Plant</i> 2. <i>Loan for new Water Tower</i>	USDA	1. <i>\$1,500,000</i> 2. <i>\$486,000</i>		
Other Funding Programs: <i>examples are U.S. HUD Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), or grants from USDA, EPA, Appalachian Regional Commission, Chesapeake Bay Trust, Maryland Heritage Areas Association, Preservation Maryland, Safe Routes to School, Maryland Rural Development Corporation, Maryland Energy Administration, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, etc.</i> *Please add more rows if necessary				

COMPETITIVE FUNDING: Are there any types of projects/needs for which your Sustainable Community needs funding; however, there isn't a funding source?

The Town has multiple projects that it would like to complete. Several projects are started and phased in over multiple years. The list below is not prioritized and will continue to be adjusted as the Town's needs are identified:

- *I&I repair*
- *Water main and valve replacement*
- *Water meter replacement*
- *Increased parking*
- *Stormwater repair*
- *Street paving*
- *Repair and add additional sidewalks*
- *Improved street lighting*
- *Renew façade grant program*
- *Community Policing*
- *Community Planning – Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance Update*
- *New playground equipment*
- *Boat ramp improvements*
- *Repair and add additional transient docks*
- *South side trail*
- *Converting Ben Cardin Trail to state park*
- *Trail head for Ben Cardin Trail*

Sustainable Community Action Plan

Chesapeake City

SECTION C.

Environment

This section describes projects involving the natural environment, our use of natural resources, and our relationships or access to the natural environment.

This category includes projects focusing on (but not limited to): the quality of land, water, and air; tree canopies and green spaces; green infrastructure; habitat improvement, climate change mitigation and adaptation; nuisance flooding;; stormwater infrastructure and management; water and sewer capacity; energy conservation; recycling, pet waste, and organic waste programs; the mitigation of environmental hazards; and parks and recreation improvements.

<u>Strengths</u>	<u>Weaknesses</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>New WWTP</i> - <i>Active Critical Area program</i> - <i>Recycling</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>I & I</i> - <i>Stormwater</i> - <i>Urban plantings and street trees</i>

<u>Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures</u>	<u>Strategies and Action Items</u>	<u>Implementation Partners</u>
Outcome 1: <i>Improve sewer system</i> Progress Measures: <i>Complete new WWTP and Repair I&I with 60% reduction in wet weather flow</i>	Strategy A: <i>Ensure the completion and successful operation of new WWTP</i> Strategy B: <i>Review existing and start I & I evaluation, educate community to remove stormwater drains from sewer system</i> Strategy C: <i>Use ARPA funds to repair sewer I & I issues</i>	<i>MDE, USDA, CCDPW, Town Engineer (KCI), and Town residents</i>
Outcome 2: <i>Improve quality of stormwater runoff</i> Progress Measures: <i>Number, location, and type of projects</i>	Strategy A: <i>Create and area wide stormwater plan</i> Strategy B: <i>Prioritize and implement capitol storm water investment.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Action 1 – Meet with Town Engineer, KCI, to determine cost of feasibility study to begin storm water improvement plan</i> Strategy C: <i>Educate community and create smaller more passive solutions, (rain gardens and landscaping)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Action 1- Publish in Town newsletter and Town website examples of best practice and easily implementable storm water runoff quality improvements</i> 	<i>MDE, DHCD, EPA, and Town residents</i>
Outcome 3: <i>Add new trees to parks and streets</i> Progress Measures: <i>number of trees planted</i>	Strategy A: <i>Create community landscaping plan</i> Strategy B: <i>Plant full growth native trees in Town parks</i> Strategy C: <i>Maintain and plant new street trees</i>	<i>SHA, MDE, DHCD</i>

Economy

This section is centered on economic growth and management.

Strengths and weaknesses might focus on the following: business attraction & retention; improving and maintaining the health of business districts, downtowns, and main streets; commercial vacancy reduction; workforce attraction and retention; employment/job training; marketing, branding, and tourism; improving or creating economic impact of cultural and historic assets; providing technical and financial assistance to businesses; commercial building acquisition, rehabilitation and/or adaptive re-use; and creating a sense of place and vibrancy through streetscaping and beautification.

<u>Strengths</u>	<u>Weaknesses</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Vibrant tourism industry</i> - <i>Situated on intercoastal water way along the historic C&D Canal</i> - <i>Historical Town with multiple events throughout the year</i> - <i>Mid Atlantic location situated midway between Philadelphia and Baltimore</i> - <i>Chamber of commerce becoming more active and promoting events</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Tourism is primarily only industry in Town</i> - <i>No grocery stores</i> - <i>Lack of overnight lodging</i> - <i>Consistent water ferry service that links North and South Chesapeake City for pedestrian and bike traffic</i>

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: <i>Create more diversity of amenities, and workplace opportunities</i></p> <p>Progress Measures: <i>If grocery store and other businesses open</i></p>	<p>Strategy A: <i>Complete Comprehensive Plan</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 1 – <i>Hire planning consultant to assist comprehensive plan committee to complete plan update</i> <p>Strategy B: <i>Work with developers to build in growth area, increasing commercial and residential units</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 1- <i>In initial meetings with developers discuss opportunities and advantages to create mixed use projects within the Town's zoning for Traditional Neighborhood development</i> 	<p>MDP</p>

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application

<p>Outcome 2: <i>Increase consistency and frequency of water ferry service</i></p> <p>Progress Measures: <i>Measure ridership</i></p>	<p>Strategy A: <i>Advertise service</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Action 1: <i>Partner with the City Chamber of Commerce and the Maryland Department of Commerce to develop ferry marketing materials to distribute at city events and city facilities. Ensure that the marketing materials target a variety of audiences, such as families on vacation and retirees.</i> <p>Strategy B: <i>Work with contractor to increase hours</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Action 1: <i>Establish a workgroup of city representatives, local business leaders, residents, and ferry contractor to discuss service enhancements. Through workgroup, develop and implement incentives (financial, marketing support) that will encourage the contractor to expand service hours.</i> <p>Strategy C: <i>Town subsidize “free” coupons to increase ridership</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Action 1: <i>Explore options for allocating a certain amount of planning & zoning fees or local tax revenue to subsidize ferry rides. Develop criteria, such as age, income, school enrollment for those who can receive subsidized ferry trips.</i>	<p><i>Chesapeake City Chamber of Commerce, Ferry Contractor</i></p>
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Transportation

This section describes the way people in your community get from place to place.

Strengths, weaknesses and outcomes can focus on: access to transit corridors; pedestrian safety and accessibility; sidewalks; alternative modes of transportation, such as bikeways and trails; public transit, such as bus and rail; carpooling; proximity to transportation centers; parking; and road conditions.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mid Atlantic location situated midway between Philadelphia and Baltimore, close to I-95 - Strong maritime travel on the intercostal water way, situated along third busiest canal in the world - Town provides free docking for transient boaters - Ben Cardin Trail – currently connecting Chesapeake City to Delaware City. future connections planned for east and north - Parking congestion lowered on north side by addition of new parking lot for Schaefer's Restaurant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No routine public transportation - Inconsistent water ferry service - Need to repair and add new sidewalks - Lack of adequate parking for Ben Cardin Trail and south side village center - No local train service

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: Increase parking Progress Measures: Number of parking spaces	Strategy A: Complete Comprehensive Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 1 – Hire planning consultant to assist comprehensive plan committee to complete plan update Strategy B: Work with developers/private partners to increase parking Strategy C: Investigate funding to improve or create new public parking	Comprehensive Plan Committee, Local Businesses, and MDOT
Outcome 2: Improve public transportation Progress Measures: Measure ridership	Strategy A: Work with county and State officials for public transportation to Elkton <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 1 – Meet with Cecil County Transit to review and determine if there options for improving service or creating new opportunities for service in Chesapeake City Strategy B: Work with county and state officials for Train station in Elkton Md	Cecil County Government,

Housing

This section focuses on the homes in which people in your community live and efforts which make it easier for them to find and stay in a place to call home.

Strengths, weaknesses and outcomes might focus on the following: affordability; increasing homeownership; increasing rental housing; diversifying the kinds of housing available; improving housing conditions (interior or exterior); housing programs; aging in place; preventing foreclosures; and reducing residential vacancies.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Strong housing market with very few vacancies</i> - <i>Good plan for smart growth laid out in our Comprehensive Plan</i> - <i>New waste water treatment plant can accommodate moderate growth</i> - <i>Canal Town Village, affordable multifamily project</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Housing affordability, very few multifamily housing</i> - <i>Although very successful, new funding required for Façade Grant</i>

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: <i>Increase in affordable housing</i> Progress Measures: <i>Number of units</i>	Strategy A: <i>Complete Comprehensive Plan</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Action 1 – Hire planning consultant to assist comprehensive plan committee to complete plan update</i> Strategy B: <i>Work with developers to build affordable within the Town growth area</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Action 1- In initial meetings with developers discuss need for affordable housing within the Town’s growth area</i> 	<i>Comprehensive Plan Committee, And Developers</i>
Outcome 2: <i>Maintain and improve residential homes</i> Progress Measures: <i>Amount of funding provided per project</i>	Strategy A: <i>Reinstate façade grant program</i> Strategy B: <i>Investigate other grant opportunities for residents</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Action 1 – Meet with other municipalities to review grant programs that have been implemented successfully for residential properties</i> 	<i>DHCD</i>

Community Health and Quality of Life

This section is concerned with public health, community culture, and the day-to-day life of community residents.

This category includes projects focusing on (but not limited to): improvement of public health including improving community design to promote healthy behaviors such as walking and strengthening community support and connectedness through health and wellness programs and facilities that create inclusive communities. These projects may include built environment, indoor spaces, outdoor environments such as increasing community gardens and access to services including educational facilities and programs; health and wellness facilities and programs that serve multi-generations; senior facilities and programs; youth facilities and programs; facilities and programs for the disabled; civic amenities, access to quality food options; collaborations with faith-based organizations; arts and entertainment education; and homelessness prevention, services, and facilities. Projects should include community engagement that includes participation in the selection of strategies and outcomes, progress reports, and evaluation.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rural atmosphere of the upper Chesapeake Bay - Low crime rate - Walkable village friendly charm - Multiple Town events throughout the year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Town is too small to provide essential services - Lack of medical facilities - Successful tourism provides challenges to residents of the Village Center

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: <i>Improve police coverage</i> Progress Measures: <i>Number of hours worked</i>	Strategy A: <i>Increase hours for State Trooper program</i> Strategy B: <i>Investigate alternatives for community policing</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 1 – <i>Reconvene public safety committee to develop alternatives to review with Mayor and Council</i> 	<i>State Police</i>
Outcome 2: <i>Increase essential services</i> Progress Measures: <i>Number of new services</i>	Strategy A: <i>Complete Comprehensive Plan</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 1 – <i>Hire planning consultant to assist comprehensive plan committee to complete plan update</i> Strategy B: <i>Work with developers to create location for services in the Town's growth area</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 1- <i>In initial meetings with developers discuss need for professional office space for medical services</i> 	<i>Comprehensive Plan Committee Developers USDA</i>

Local Planning and Staffing Capacity

This section is concerned with a local government's ability to plan for the community's future and to meet the current needs of residents.

Strengths, weaknesses and outcomes might focus on the following: updating zoning ordinances or land use; updating municipal/local policies, taxes, fees, etc.; increasing local government staff capacity; and updating planning documents like sector plans or comprehensive plans.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Active community involved in local issues.</i> - <i>Multiple committees and commissions involved in Historic, Planning, and Parks</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Lack of staff to plan and implement public projects</i> - <i>Multiple unfunded mandates required from state and federal governments</i>

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: <i>Complete Comprehensive Plan and update zoning ordinance</i></p> <p>Progress Measures: <i>Complete plan, and ordinance updated</i></p>	<p>Strategy A: <i>Committee complete draft and professional review and map creation</i></p> <p>Strategy B: <i>Hire consultant to update zoning ordinance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 1 – <i>Request proposal from KCI, Town Engineer</i> 	<p><i>Planning Commission</i> <i>KCI Engineering</i> <i>WILMAPCO</i></p>
<p>Outcome 1: <i>Increase staff</i></p> <p>Progress Measures: <i>Hours worked</i></p>	<p>Strategy B: <i>Investigate Circuit rider program</i></p>	<p><i>DHCD, MDP</i></p>

SECTION D.

Sustainable Communities Workgroup Roster

Mayor – *Richard L. Taylor III*

Town Economic Development Dept. Head – *Councilman Ed O’Hara*

Planning Commission / Town Council Liaison – *Councilman Lee Adams*

Parks & Recreation Committee representative – *Councilman Frank Vari*

Chesapeake City Chamber of Commerce representative – *Tonya Lockwood*

Town Manager - *Robert Bernstine*

Town Treasurer - *Brian Hunsberger*

Historic Commission Chair – *Sarah O’Hara*

Chesapeake City Volunteer Fire Co. representative - *Jeff Ritter*

SECTION F

Photographs of projects



New Waste Water Treatment Plant



Water Storage Tower



Restroom for Helen Titter Park



First Steet (East) –
New brick sidewalk with granite curbing, and paving



First Steet (West)
New brick sidewalk with granite curbing,
(Note: community recycling)