SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION RENEWAL

Eligible Applicants:

Local Governments with a Sustainable Communities Designation
Local Government Consortiums with a Sustainable Communities Designation

Application must be submitted on or before the expiration date of Sustainable Communities designation.

Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development
Division of Neighborhood Revitalization
2 N Charles Street, Suite 450
Baltimore, MD 21201
410-209-5800
http://dhcd.maryland.gov/

Approved by SGCC 4/13/2022

Overview of Sustainable Communities

The Sustainable Communities Act of 2010 established a framework for reinvestment and revitalization of Maryland's existing communities creating a single, locally designated geographic focus area. Since that time the "Sustainable Communities" designation has provided an efficient means of targeting scarce public and private resources for multiple State agency investments and prioritizations.

Purpose or Renewal and Streamlined Application

The Sustainable Communities (SC) designation must be renewed every five years. This renewal application provides an opportunity for local governments to update their existing SC action plan and report on the accomplishments made over the past five years. Through the renewal process, local governments can request additional technical assistance and highlight any areas from the original action plan for which progress must still be made.

Application Eligibility and Threshold Requirements

Local governments (municipal or county) are eligible to apply.

Eligible applicants are to reconvene their **Sustainable Communities Workgroup** to discuss the accomplishments and challenges of their Sustainable Community Action Plans in addition to any update they may like to make to the Action Plan. The applicant may choose to select new members to participate in the Workgroup. The purpose of this workgroup is to continue and reinforce working relationships and collaborations among local governmental departments and better align community development priorities and strategies. In addition, this is an opportunity to assess if the Workgroup would like technical assistance from State government agencies to implement certain action items or develop strategies to address local challenges.

Threshold Requirements

All Sustainable Community applications must meet the following threshold requirements:

1) Sustainable Community Area boundaries must be entirely within a Priority Funding Area (PFA) and should be an area in need of renewal and reinvestment that would benefit from a targeted long-term strategy. Applicants can verify Priority Funding Area boundaries by visiting the MDP website at: http://www.mdp.state.md.us/OurProducts/pfamap.shtml ;

2) The proposed Sustainable Community is within or near a town center or transportation center, or there is a need for financing assistance for small businesses, nonprofit organizations or microenterprises;

3) The updated Plan must be consistent with other existing community or comprehensive plans;

4) A Sustainable Communities Workgroup is re-convened and a roster of members should be provided with the application.

Applications that do not meet these threshold requirements will not be considered.

Application Submission and Evaluation

The Sustainable Community application will be evaluated based on thorough assessment of strengths and weaknesses and how well desired outcomes, strategies and action steps are connected to the local conditions.

The first printed page of the electronic application is a Table of Contents. This should also serve as a checklist and be used to provide corresponding tabs. In addition to the hard copies of an application, all pictures and maps are to be submitted on a CD-ROM, or send via email to the Sustainable Communities project management team. Pictures should be in a JPEG format and maps should be in a pdf format. Please also include GIS shapefiles of Sustainable Community boundaries and other GIS related data.

Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Deliver Sustainable Community Applications to:

Sustainable Community Application
ATTN: Olivia Ceccarelli-McGonigal
Division of Neighborhood Revitalization
Department of Housing and Community Development
2 N Charles Street, Suite 450
Baltimore, MD 21201
410-209-5826

<u>Site Visits. Follow-up Discussion, Technical Assistance</u>

Attendance at a minimum of one application consultation session is mandatory for all applicants. Consult with Olivia Ceccarelli-McGonigal at 410-298-5826 or by email at olivia.ceccarelli@maryland.gov if you would like to schedule a meeting.

During the application review process, the review team may make site visits and/or hold meetings with applicants. In addition, applicants may be contacted by the Department for follow-up discussions prior to awards.

When needed, the Department may offer technical assistance, in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Planning, to local governments with limited capacity to prepare their Sustainable Communities applications.

<u>Approval</u>

Approval of applications will be made by the Governor's Smart Growth Coordinating Committee on the recommendation of an inter-agency review team. The review team is coordinated by the Department of Housing and Community Development. The Governor's Smart Growth Coordinating Committee can defer the approval of a Sustainable Communities renewal to the Governor's Smart Growth Subcabinet.

All questions related to the application, please contact Olivia Ceccarelli-McGonigal at 410-209-5826 or by email at olivia.ceccarelli@maryland.gov or your regional project manager, found at this link: https://dhcd.maryland.gov/Communities/Documents/SRP/PM-Map-ContactInfo.pdf

RENEWAL APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

The Sustainable Communities application for renewal has **three** sections:

A. Contact information, General Information, Organizational Capacity:

In this section, applicants are asked to update their contact information, provide information about demographic shifts over the past five years, discuss the strengths and weaknesses of their Sustainable Communities workgroup and share any technical assistance needs the workgroup may have.

B. **Report on accomplishments over past <u>five</u> years**:

The report is an opportunity to reflect on any accomplishments achieved in the Sustainable Community area. It is a tool used to evaluate if the SC applicant achieved its intended outcomes, implemented the strategies initially envisioned and identify what resources were used. Renewal applicants are encouraged to discuss how priorities, actions, and objectives were or were not achieved across the six elements listed on the previous page (v), including how any of the elements may have interrelated during the five initial years of SC designation.

C. Sustainable Communities Action Plan Update:

The Sustainable Communities Action Plan has been revised so that it is less time consuming and focused on developing a strategic implementation plan. Renewal applicants are encouraged to use their previous Sustainable Communities applications as a basis for their updated Action Plan. You may identify which weaknesses have not yet been addressed or which strategies have not yet been implemented. Include your revitalization priorities for the next five years, basing them on your community's current strengths and weaknesses.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PLAN ELEMENTS

The table below provides a description of each subject area/element of the Sustainable Communities Action Plan. Included are examples of common strengths and weaknesses within each subject area and the types of projects that might be implemented to address said strengths and weaknesses.

ENVIRONMENT: Describes projects involving the natural environment, our use of natural resources, and our relationships to the natural environment.

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

ECONOMY: Describes projects centered on economic growth and management.

This category includes projects focusing on (but not limited to): 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.

TRANSPORTATION: Describes projects involving the way people in your community get from place to place.

This category includes projects focusing on (but not limited to): 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.

HOUSING: Describes projects involving the homes people in your community live or making it easier for them to find and stay in a place to call home.

This category includes projects focusing on (but not limited to): affordability; increasing homeownership; increasing rental housing; diversifying the kinds of housing available; improving housing condition (interior or exterior); housing programs; aging in place; preventing foreclosures; and reducing residential vacancies.

COMMUNITY HEALTH & QUALITY OF LIFE: Describes projects 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 safety and the reduction of crime; libraries; educational facilities and programs; health and wellness facilities and programs; 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.

LOCAL PLANNING & STAFFING CAPACITY: Describes projects concerned with a local government's ability to plan for the community's future and to meet the current needs of residents.

This category includes projects focusing on (but not limited to): 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.

Additional Guidance for Developing the Sustainable Communities Action Plan

III. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN UPDATE

The Sustainable Community Action Plan (SC Plan or Plan) is meant to be a multi-year investment strategy – a strategic set of revitalization initiatives and projects that local partners believe will increase the economic vitality and livability of their community, increase prosperity for local households and improve the health of the surrounding environment. The Plan should be flexible enough to be updated regularly and renewed every five years as the community envisions new goals. The priority initiatives and projects identified in the action plan are your priorities for improving the livability of community places -- residential, commercial, or other public or private properties – and the sustainability of new work, retail, recreational and housing opportunities for residents. At the same time, the plan should only discuss the strategies that will impact the geographic area targeted for revitalization, so that resources have the best opportunity to have the intended effect. These projects can also be designed to reduce the environmental impact of the community through water and energy resource conservation and management strategies. In this way, the Plan can be a road map for local stakeholders as well as State agencies to work together to create a more a livable and sustainable community.

All communities submitted an SC Plan when the community earned its original designation. Some applicants may want to take advantage of the designation renewal process to outline new strategies, set new priorities or reaffirm existing strategies for their Sustainable Community. Changes to SC Plans may be due to changes in external factors affecting the community or changes in the priorities of the applicant.

Action Plan Guidance

The Action Plan section has been broken down into the same six categories as the Comprehensive Assessment section of this document. These parts address key components of your Sustainable Community Action Plan. Follow the guidelines below to fill out the matrix.

1) **For each of the different sections, pinpoint essential strengths and weaknesses of your community**. Example Transportation: Strength - Good sidewalk connectivity. Weakness - Insufficient amount of downtown parking.

2) **Based on those strengths and weaknesses, formulate specific outcomes that address the most pressing issues or greatest potentials. Include a means of measuring the success of said outcome.** Example Economy: Outcome – Expand broadband fiber optics in Town. Progress Measure - Linear measurement of fiber laid and number of residential and business connections.

3) **After defining the outcomes, list detailed strategies (break down to several action steps if needed) that will serve as the means to achieve those goals.** Example Economy: Strategy - Increase number of Town sponsored events ⮚ Develop with community input, a series of weekend events that the Town could host.

4) **List potential partners that can support the successful implementation of these strategies through different types of resources.** Example Economy: DHCD (Community Legacy program), Small Business Administration (Services and financial assistance) etc.

CHECKLIST AND TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPLICANT: Mayor and City Council of Cumberland, Maryland

NAME OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY: Cumberland

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**

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

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

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

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

❑ **Section F – CD-ROM:** The CD-ROM should include the following contents:

- If requesting a boundary modification, map in pdf format of the proposed Sustainable Community

- **GIS shapefiles of the modified Sustainable Community boundary (if requesting a modification) and other GIS related data**

- Photos (jpeg format) of your accomplished projects of the last five years **(as indicated in Section B)**

- Digital copy of completed Sustainable Communities Renewal Application

I. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Sustainable Community:	**Cumberland**
Name of Applicant:	**Mayor and City Council**
Applicant's Federal Identification Number:	**52-6000786**
Applicant's Street Address:	**57 N. Liberty Street**

City: Cumberland	**County: Allegany**	**State: MD Zip Code:21502**
Phone Number: 301 759-6437	**Fax Number: 301 759-6432**	**Web Address:** **www.ci.cumberland.md.us**

Sustainable Community Application Local Contact:

Name: Ken Tressler		**Title: Director of Administrative Services**	
Address: 57 N. Liberty Street	**City: Cumberland**	**State: MD**	**Zip Code: 21502**
Phone Number: ▮▮▮	**Fax Number:** ▮▮▮	**E-mail** ▮▮▮	

Sustainable Community Contact for Application Status:

Name: Lee Borror		**Title: Senior Community Development Specialist**	
Address: 57 N. Liberty Street	**City: Cumberland**	**State: MD**	**Zip Code: 21502**
Phone Number: ▮▮▮	**Fax Number:** ▮▮▮	**E-mail Address:** ▮▮▮	

Other Sustainable Community Contacts:

Name: Allison Layton and Terri Hast		**Title: Community Development**	
Address:	**City:**	**State:**	**Zip Code:**
Phone Number: ▮▮▮	**Fax Number:**	**E-mail Address:** ▮▮▮	

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, the workgroup is content to work within the current boundaries.

   (2) Include the following in as an attachment (if requesting a modification to your current boundary):

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

(3) Approximate number of acres of entire SC Area: 4,096.69

(4) <u>Existing federal, state or local designations:</u>
X Main Street   X Maple Street
X National Register Historic District   X Local Historic District   X Arts & Entertainment District
X State Enterprise Zone Special Taxing District   ☐ BRAC   ☐ State Designated TOD
X Other(s): Certified Heritage Area

(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?

The City of Cumberland was home to an estimated 19,480 people in 2018. Between 2010 and 2018, the City's population declined by nearly 1,500 people, or declining about .8% annually.

There were 8,437 households in the City of Cumberland representing a 10% in households from 2015. In 2017, an estimated 54.2% of households were family households- holding steady over the last 5 years. The average household size is 2.26 people a slight increase since 2015. A higher share of both County and State are family households at 61/7% and 66.9% respectively. Both the City of Cumberland and Allegany County have a lower share of married couple with children households (about 14%) compared to Maryland, where 19.7% of all households were married couples with children. In Cumberland, approximately one in 10 households is a single-parent family. Cumberland also has a higher share of non-family households, primary single-person, senior households, compared to Allegany County and the State of Maryland. Nearly ½ of all households in the City of Cumberland were non-family households. The City of Cumberland has a higher share of disabled residents than either Allegany County or the State of Maryland. In 2017 there were an estimated 4,500 Cumberland residents with a disability, comprising nearly ¼ (23.1%) of the City's population.

Homeownership rates in Cumberland have been consistently lower than those in Allegany County. In 2017, an estimated 52.1% of Cumberland households were homeowners, compared to 68.8% of Allegany County households. Homeownership rates have declined since 2010 in both Cumberland and in Allegany County.

The median income for households rose slightly to $32,825 in 2019 from $30,275 in 2015.

The median value of homes increased from $88,900 in 2015 to $97,296 which is still below the Maryland median value of $332,500.

Poverty rates in the City of Cumberland are higher than rates in both Allegany County and the state as a whole. Overall, nearly ¼ of Cumberland residents have incomes below the poverty line. By comparison, the poverty rate is 16.8% in Allegany County and just 9.7% in the State of Maryland. The number of persons living in poverty in Cumberland declined slightly from 25.1% in 2015 to 23.5% in 2019. Seventy-seven percent of renters have incomes below poverty level and 60% of Cumberland residents make less than $40,000 per year.

Healthcare is the most important employment sector in the City of Cumberland economy. There were an estimated 4,450 jobs in the healthcare sector accounting for 39% of all jobs in the city. About one in ten jobs in Cumberland was in the Education Services sector and another 10 are in the Public Administration sector. The City has a slightly smaller share of jobs in the Retail Trade and Food Services sector compared to neighboring Frederick, Hagerstown, and Winchester. Only three percent of jobs located in Cumberland were in the Professional and Technical Services sector. About one in five jobs located in the City of Cumberland and in Allegany County have annual wages of less than $15,000. About 40% of jobs in Cumberland pay between $15,000-$39,999, and another 40% have annual salaries of $40,000 or more. These wage distributions are roughly comparable to other nearby communities, with exception of City of Frederick, where there are somewhat higher paying jobs.

In 2017, there was an estimated 8,437 housing units in the City of Cumberland. Nearly six out of 10 of housing units in the City of Cumberland (57.2%) are single-family detached units. About 12% of units in the city are townhomes and another 12% are units in buildings with two to four units (i.e., duplexes, triplexes and fourplexes). About 10% of units in the city are units in small multifamily buildings, with fewer than 20 units in the building. Another 9.2% of units are in buildings with 20 or more units.

According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the City of Cumberland's housing stock Experienced a decline of nearly 800 units, through demolition and a lack of replacement construction. There was also a shift in tenure from owner-occupied to renter-occupied units. The city lost an estimated 1,217 single-family, owner-occupied units. At the same time, there was an increase in the number of single-family rentals in the city, which at least partially reflects that shift in tenure from owner-occupied to renter-occupied units. The city also lost an estimated 208 rental units in small buildings with two to four units.

In the City of Cumberland in 2018, 52.0% of occupied housing units were owner-occupied, while 48.0% of units were renter-occupied. The homeownership rate in the City of Cumberland is lower than the countywide homeownership rate. Furthermore, the number of homeowners living in Cumberland has declined over the past decade. In 2010, the City's homeownership rate was 59.9% and there were an estimated 5,483 homeowners. By contrast, in 2018 the city only had 4,348 homeowners, a drop of 1,135 homeowners. Some of these homeowners became renters through foreclosure or other economic hardship, while other homeowners left the city or passed away.

The owner-occupied housing stock in the City of Cumberland, like the rental housing stock, is relatively old compared to the County. More than a quarter of the owner-occupied homes in Cumberland was built before 1940 and nearly half (48.2%) was built before 1980. Home values are relatively modest in Cumberland, reflecting market conditions but also the age and condition of the homes. About 14% of all owner-occupied homes are valued at under $50,000 and 56.4% are valued under $100,000.

There is a lot of variability in home sales prices in Cumberland, largely due to the relatively small housing market. In May 2020, the median list price was $109,000, about $10,000 lower than the median list price a decade ago.

On average, homes in Cumberland sell after 75 days on the market. The trend for average days

on market in Cumberland, MD has gone down since last month, and slightly down since last year.

As of the third week of June, there was a total of 196 home listed for sale in the city of Cumberland. The vast majority of homes for sale—171 homes—are single-family detached homes. The remaining homes are townhomes and condominium units that are part of single-family homes and duplexes. More than half of the homes for sale were built before 1940. Current list prices range from $20,000 for a home being sold "as is" needing serious home repairs, potentially needed to be demolished altogether.

About half of all single-family homes for sale in Cumberland are priced between $20,000 and $100,000. A typical home is a single-family detached brick home built in the early part of the 20th century. In some cases, homes have updated systems or interiors; however, the majority have not had significant upgrades or improvements. Only two homes currently listed for sale were built in 2010 or later. One home is a home that has income restrictions on buyers. The other is priced at $699,000.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, the City of Cumberland added 337 rental units between 2010 and 2018, with all of the new rental stock in the form of single-family attached or detached homes.

In 2017, about 14.7% of the rental units in the city rent for less than $300 per month. Using the 30% rule of thumb, a unit renting for $300 per month is affordable to an individual or household with an annual income of $12,000. An individual receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) in Maryland receives $9,000 per year. An annual income of $12,000 is also approximately equivalent to an individual earning the Maryland minimum wage ($10.10 per hour) year-round at between 20 and 25 hours per week.

Over the past decade or so, the city has lost lower-rent units - not only through rent increases but also, through demolition. While the City added 366 rental units between 2010 and 2017, there was a net loss of 341 rental units with rents below $600 (affordable to households earning $24,000 or less per year). At the same time, there were 660 more rental units with rents of $600 or more in 2017 than there were in 2010.

Access to education opportunities is critical for ensuring opportunities for economic mobility and Success. The School Proficiency Index compiled by HUD is used to measure access to high-quality schools. The School Proficiency Index (SPI) uses school-level data on the performance of 4th grade students on state exams to describe which neighborhoods have high performing elementary schools nearby and which are near lower-performing elementary schools. The SPI is a function of the percent of 4th grade students proficient in reading and math on state test scores for up to three schools within 1.5 miles of each Census block-group centroid. According to this data, children in the Chapel Hill – Virginia Avenue, Center City, and Wills Neighborhoods (all neighborhoods located within Cumberland Sustainable Communities boundaries) live in areas with the lowest SPI, while children in most of the eastern part of the city and in the Haystack-Dingle neighborhood have access to higher-quality elementary schools.

Elementary schools outside of the city but in Allegany County have higher ratings and test scores, which means that families and children living outside of the city boundaries have better access to high-quality public education opportunities.

Between 2015-2019, 90.9% of people 25 years and over had graduated from high school which is a slight increase over figures in 2011-2015. More than 90% of White Cumberland residents are high school graduates, compared with about 86% of Black residents. 19.4% of people 25 years or older, earned Bachelor degrees. However, White Cumberland residents are significantly more likely than Black residents to have a bachelor's degree or higher. Hispanic residents living in Cumberland are also less likely that White residents to have a college degree.

Access to high-quality educational opportunities varies across Cumberland neighborhoods, as represented by the School Proficiency Index. However, the biggest disparity appears to be between the quality of public-school opportunities within the city limits and outside in the rest of the County. Families with children who live in Allegany County, but outside of the city of Cumberland, have access to higher-quality public schools.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also revealed the disparities that exist in the community. Interviews revealed that more than 4,000 students did not have access to broadband or a computer, requiring students to pick-up paper packets of their school assignments. Because of lack of broadband access, the Allegany County Board of Education, County, and City agencies worked together to provide Wi-Fi hotspots that extend into the parking lots of schools, fire stations, libraries, and other facilities.

The vast majority of workers in Cumberland drive alone to work. Public transportation options in Cumberland and Allegany County are very limited, which primarily drives the commuting patterns. However, Black workers are significant more likely than White workers to take public transportation to work. Nearly 30% of Black workers commute either by public transportation (e.g., Allegany Transit service) or walked or biked to work. By contrast, only 11.7% of White workers did not drive alone or carpool to work. And Hispanic workers living in Cumberland are much more likely than White or Black workers to carpool to work.

There is a public transportation option in Cumberland, though service is relatively limited. In general, bus service is available Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm in the County, with selected service running earlier (silver line morning service beginning at 5:55 am) and running later (yellow line evening service running into 8:00 pm). There is no weekend service and no late evening/night time service.

Limited public transportation options and the locations of key job centers in the region means that transportation accounts for a significant share of Cumberland households' budgets. Transportation is typically a household's second largest expense, after housing. When workers cannot find affordable housing near their place of employment, they often look for options further away. However, the savings associated with lower-cost housing can sometimes be offset by the increased transportation costs households incurred (e.g., greater fuel and maintenance costs). A rule of thumb is that households should not spend more than 45% of income on combined housing plus transportation costs.

Places that are compact, close to jobs and services, with a variety of transportation choices, allow people to spend less time, energy, and money on transportation. According to the H+T Index, there are no neighborhoods within the City of Cumberland that meet the definition of a location efficient neighborhood and most residents are dependent on car travel for commuting on other

trips. As a result, transportation costs are higher in the City of Cumberland than in some other communities in Maryland.

Residents travel an average of 17,477 miles each year and spend an average of $9,952 each year on transportation. The average household in Cumberland has 1.42 vehicles.

The typical household with the median household income spends 51% of their income on housing in addition to transportation costs, including 25% on transportation and 26% on housing. H+T costs are higher for moderate-income households; the typical moderate- income household in Cumberland spends 60% of their income on H+T costs, including 29% on transportation and 31% on housing. Despite being a more urban place within the County, Cumberland does not appear to offer significant advantages in terms of reducing transportation costs compared with other places in Allegany County.

Environmentally healthy neighborhoods are defined as places with healthy physical environments, free from pollutants. However, lower-income families, persons of color, and disabled individuals are often disproportionately negatively impacted by unhealthy neighborhoods. Research has demonstrated important links between environmentally healthy environments and individual health outcomes:
● Health can be adversely affected by poor air and water quality or proximity to facilities that produce or store hazardous substances.[24]
● Substandard housing conditions exposing residents to lead paint, mold, dust, or pest infestation can lead to poor health outcomes.[25]
● Access to fast food outlets and liquor stores has been associated with poor health outcomes.[26]
● Growing up in neighborhoods with concentrated violence, incarceration, and lead exposure, also typically associated with high-poverty neighborhoods, is associated with lower intergenerational income mobility and higher adult incarceration of poor Black males.[27]
● Exposure to health hazards accounts for a substantial proportion (between 20 and 60%) of racial disparities in intergenerational inequality.[28]

There is limited health data specifically for the City of Cumberland; most data reported by the State of Maryland is at the county level. Therefore, this section primarily summarizes data for Allegany County. Allegany County scores lower than the state overall on several health indicators. The biggest disparities relate to the rates of unintentional intoxication deaths, both from drugs and alcohol. The age-adjusted mortality rates for total unintentional intoxication deaths are 23.8 for Maryland and 38.1 for Allegany County, the 3rd highest in the state after the City of Baltimore and Cecil County.

According to more recent data from UPMC Western Maryland, there were 253 non-fatal drugs overdoses reported in Allegany County in 2019, and 60% of those were opioid-related. The number of overdoses in the County is down from 2017 and 2018, when there were 413 and 347, respectively.

Compared to the rest of Maryland, residents of Allegany County have lower health outcomes on other measures, according to data analyzed in the Allegany County Community Health Needs Assessment. There is a higher share of adults who smoke in Allegany County compared to the

rest of the state. Less than half of the residents of the County have access to healthy food, which is measured by residents' proximity to full-service grocery stores and farmers' markets. The rate of diabetes among adults is 50% higher in Allegany County compared to the State of Maryland. One in five Allegany County residents report that they are in "fair" or "poor" health compared to 13% of residents statewide.

Substandard housing has been linked to greater asthma hospitalizations and mortality among low-income children. There is evidence that asthma-related hospitalizations are a greater challenge among Allegany County residents than for residents in other parts of western Maryland.

All zip codes in Allegany County were identified as "at risk" for lead paint exposure by the State of Maryland in 2015. Zip codes 21502 (Cumberland) and 21532 (Frostburg) are areas that were identified with 75% of the children at risk of being exposed to lead poisoning.

Substandard housing is a critical issue in the City of Cumberland. In a 2020 survey, 70% of Cumberland residents said that "transforming abandoned and vacant properties into community assets" should be a goal of the City. The City's most recent five-year Consolidated Plan (Con Plan) includes in its assessment that a primary housing concern in the community is vacant and dilapidated residential structures. The age of the housing stock necessitates regular upkeep and maintenance, which can be expensive for owners and landlords. Deteriorating housing conditions coupled with rising rents creates housing instability felt most acutely by extremely low-income households in the community.

Focus groups and interviews conducted as part of the 2020 Consolidated Planning process confirmed that aging housing stock is one of the community's top housing issues, along with blighted and vacant units. The Consolidated Plan concludes that "widespread blight and substandard housing contribute to the misalignment of available housing units since it is likely that a large number of units are not part of the housing inventory."

In a 2020 survey, 15.1% of Cumberland residents say that several homes in their neighborhood appear to have "major structural issues and seem uninhabitable." An additional 25.8% of residents say that several homes "appear to be in need of major repair (e.g., new roof, siding, or windows)." More than 43% of Cumberland residents say that vacant properties are a problem in their neighborhood.

In 2018, in collaboration with West Virginia University (WVU) and Downstream Strategies, an environmental and economic consulting firm, the City of Cumberland completed the Cumberland Blight Action Plan, which was designed to assess the dilapidated and abandoned buildings in the city and create a set of recommendations to address blight within the city limits. The Blight Action Plan identified 512 dilapidated and/or vacant buildings in the city of Cumberland. The vast majority of the dilapidated and/or vacant structures in the city are single-family homes. While the survey identified dilapidated and/or vacant structures in many parts of the City, the inventory concluded that the problem properties were concentrated in the Decatur Heights, Rolling Mill, and Johnson Heights-Mapleside neighborhoods- all neighborhoods located within the Cumberland Sustainable Communities area.

Substandard housing has a significant impact on the health and well-being of children and families. Poor housing quality has been found to be associated with an increase in emotional and

7

behavioral problems in children and poor school performance in teens. In addition, the presence of blighted and abandoned property contributes to declining nearby property values and is associated with increased crime. Addressing blighted and abandoned property and substandard housing is essential for helping ensure families have access to secure and quality housing and that Cumberland's neighborhoods can be stabilized and improved.

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?

The overall organizational structure has remained relatively unchanged since the original designation ten years ago. Today, the partners that were originally members of the workgroup are still represented, although there may have been changes in personnel. Key personnel unavailable during the writing of this document include Kathy McKenney, Historic Preservation and Planner for the City of Cumberland. The former workgroup is listed below.

Dee Dee Ritchie – Executive Director, Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority
John DiFonzo – Director of Engineering, City of Cumberland
Becky (Hadra) Ruppert - Director, Professional Development and Community Services, Allegany College of Maryland
Steve Kesner – Executive Director, Housing Authority of the City of Cumberland
Raquel Ketterman – Environmental Specialist, City of Cumberland
Kathy McKenney – Community Development Programs Manager, City of Cumberland
Jennifer Light – Executive Director, Downtown Development Commission
Courtney Thomas – Executive Director, Human Resource Development Commission (HRDC)
Shawn Hershberger, Executive Director, Cumberland Economic Development Corporation
Steven Leyh, Promotions Director, Downtown Development Commission, Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority
Julie Thornton – Engineering Technician – City of Cumberland
David Cox – Code Compliance Manager – City of Cumberland

The current Sustainable Communities Workgroup consists of the following representatives which include additional partners.

Dee Dee Ritchie-Executive Director, Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority
Robert Smith-Director of Engineering, City of Cumberland
Denise Ware- Coordinator Community & Lifelong Engagement
Center for Continuing Education & Workforce Development, Allegany College of Maryland
Steve Kesner-Executive Director, The Cumberland Housing Group/Housing Authority of the City of Cumberland/Cumberland Neighborhood Housing Services
Raquel Ketterman-Environmental Specialist, City of Cumberland\
Melinda Kelleher-Executive Director, Downtown Development Commission
Wendolyn McKenzie-Executive Director, Human Resources Development Commission (HRDC)
Matt Miller-Executive Director, Cumberland Economic Development Corporation
Julie Thornton – Engineering Technician, City of Cumberland

Kevin Thacker – Code Compliance Manager, City of Cumberland
Lee Borror, -Senior Community Development Specialist, City of Cumberland
Allison Layton-Citizen Service Representative City of Cumberland
Terri Hast-Community Services Specialist, City of Cumberland
Julie O'Neal-Executive Director, Cumberland YMCA
Ken Tressler-Director Administrative Services, City of Cumberland
Morgan Alban- GIS Specialist, City of Cumberland Engineering Division
Chuck Ternent- Chief, City of Cumberland Police Department
Diane Johnson- Director, Parks and Recreation Department, City of Cumberland

(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 Cumberland Sustainable Communities Workgroup's greatest strength is that they represent a collective group of experience and areas of expertise. This allows for Cumberland's focus on providing a great place to live and a supportive place to build a profitable business to be realized through a comprehensive approach. The group continues to work well together in prioritizing yearly projects and collaborating on projects that help to fulfill common goals and objectives. Another strength is that each participant has been involved in the development of plans and studies revealing common needs among community partners which allows for awareness of a cohesive and collaborative path forward.

The challenges that face the capacity of the Sustainable Communities Workgroup have not been significant. The biggest challenge that faces everyone seems to be a consistent need for funding to address the needs of the community. Universal challenges include pandemic response and recovery as waves of staff shortages and supply chain interruption continue to affect operations.

(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?

During the preparation of the Sustainable Communities Action Plan Update, regular opportunities for stakeholder and public participation were made available at board meetings and at the regular Mayor and City Council meetings at January 4, 2022 regular work session and on January 18, 2022. A notice for comments was published in the Times/News and City website affording the public 15 days to comment on the plan. In addition, goals included in the strategic plan have been informed by several recently adopted studies and plans which followed well attended focus groups and surveys by established citizen participation plans. Studies include the 2020-2024 Community Development Block Grant Consolidated Five Year Plan, Cumberland Blight Plan, 2018 updated City of Cumberland Comprehensive Plan, 2020 Expanding Housing Quality and Opportunities-A Comprehensive Housing Strategy for Cumberland, Maryland Economic Development Plan, 2020 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing, Allegany County Transit Development Plan/2017 Loop Study, Passages of the Western Potomac Heritage Area Management Plan and other plans referenced within this document.

(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.

The City of Cumberland always welcomes technical assistance from State agencies to implement ambitious transportation and trail development goals and establish comprehensive police/mental health & addictions services.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL REPORT

PART I: QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT

Purpose:
The purpose of this assessment is to capture significant projects/ improvements that have been completed since the approval of your local government's Sustainable Communities designation.

In relation to the goals stated in your local government's Sustainable Community Action Plan, **please highlight at least three major accomplishments from the last five years**, including how you achieved them. When writing your narrative, consider the questions below and refer to the six elements discussed in the General Information section of this document (page iv) – Environment, Economy, Transportation, Housing, Quality of Life, and Land Use/Local Planning.

1) **Outcome**: Which outcomes identified in your Sustainable Community plan were you able to achieve?
2) **Projects**: Which projects did you implement in order to achieve the outcome? Also indicate when you started and completed these projects.
3) **Partners**: With whom (i.e., state agencies, local stakeholders) did you partner to complete projects?
4) **Impact**: What kind of measurable impact did the achieved outcome have on your community? Are there other intangible benefits?
5) **Photos**: Please also include pictures that depict your accomplishments.

[EXAMPLE] Descriptive Narrative: Please list the most significant accomplishments that apply

> *Example* – **Accomplishment 1**
> *Outcome: Improved stormwater management*
>
> Projects:
> *Project 1: Stormwater Retrofit Plan – In October 2014, the Town Council approved the Town's stormwater retrofit plan which outlines various strategies and capital budget expenditures over the next five years. Strategies include reducing the amount of impervious surface in the community and improving stormwater management. One of the plan recommendations is to pass an ordinance that assesses an environmental protection fee on municipal permits.*
>
> *Project 2: Green Streets – The Town added green elements to approximately 600 linear feet of roadway that had been experiencing severe flooding. Specifically, bioswales were constructed and trees were planted.*
>
> *Partners:*
> *Chesapeake Bay Trust – provided technical assistance*
> *MD DHCD – provided financial assistance in form of a Community Legacy grant (totaling $50,000).*
>
> *Impact: The implementation of the projects had a significant impact on the community by improving stormwater runoff. The streets with the newly constructed bioswales no longer experience flooding.*

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

ENVIRONMENT

Accomplishment 1:
Outcome: Continue to coordinate with the Trail Town Program and Mountain MD Trails goals to make the city one of the revitalized trailside communities along the Great Allegheny Passage.

Project: The Great Allegheny Passage (GAP) Economic Impact Study was completed with details found under the impact section. Successful events included the 3M Challenge which raised $15,000 for trail projects, the Borden Tunnel Project to install lighting in the tunnel, and the Trail Ambassadors program

Partners: City of Cumberland, Trail Towns, Mountain MD

Impact: The GAP trail welcomed 990,000 visitors in 2019 and nearly 1.5 million visitors in 2020 and generated $800,000 in annual economic impact per mile. It supported 1,393 jobs with a total of $52.6 million in labor income. 44% of businesses surveyed were found to primarily serve GAP users.

Cumberland saw 61,063 riders in 2019 and 99,074 riders in 2020, Frostburg saw 35,870 riders in 2019 and 48,423 riders in 2020 for a total 96,933 and 147,497 respectively; representing 52% growth in 1 year.

Accomplishment 2:
Outcome: Increase the urban tree canopy by providing outreach and education to citizens the importance of trees

Project: Arbor Day Celebration and Tree Planting

Partners: City of Cumberland, Maryland DNR

Impact: Annual Arbor Day Tree plantings (last Friday in April) have provided the opportunity to outreach to hundreds of Cumberland youth throughout the past five years, resulting in hundreds of newly planted trees throughout the area. Each participant leaves with a greater understanding of the benefits of trees and a live tree sapling!

Accomplishment 3:
Outcome: Complete projects within City of Cumberland's Long Term Control Plan in order to achieve an 85% reduction of total combined sewer overflow volume

Project 1: Construct a CSO storage facility

Partners: City of Cumberland, Maryland Department of the Environment

Impact: A 5-million-gallon CSO storage tank was constructed adjacent to the Water Reclamation Facility; completed in November 2020, online in 2021. Overflows to the Potomac River from CSO Outfall 002 have reduced in occurrence from over two dozen per year to only two the first 10 months of 2021.

Accomplishment 4:
Outcome: Increase energy efficiency in City owned facilities

Projects: Water Reclamation Plant Aeration Blower Replacement Project

Partners: City of Cumberland, Maryland Department of the Environment, Maryland Energy Administration

Impact: The new aeration blowers were installed and operational in May of 2019. Annual savings of almost $100 K and over 650,000 kWh was realized in FY21 in comparison to FY18.

Accomplishment 5:

Outcome: Develop and adopt a functional capital improvements plan that addresses the needs of the Utilities Division of the Public Works Department

Projects: GIS based Asset Management Plan and rolling Capital Improvements Plan

Partners: City Public Works Divisions

Impact: Utilities infrastructure in-field tracking utilizing ArcGIS online was implemented in 2018. Progress to date is a functioning water distribution and sewer collection map with Workforce and Survey app capabilities. The Asset Management Plan is an ongoing effort of the city to further enhance mapping utilities through ArcGIS.

Accomplishment 6:

Outcome: Continue to support Allegany Mountain Fresh Farmer's Market and local Food Initiatives

Project: Increase the number of purchases made during the growing season as well as the number of restaurants purchasing directly from local farmers.
A: Continue efforts to work with the local farmers to partner with area business in order to coordinate more farm to table opportunities. Continue to develop year-round opportunities and access to fresh food. Provide an indoor facility for cold weather purchases.

Impact: ACM hosted Farmer's market on campus, marketed the event, and offered vouchers to students, faculty and staff as incentive to attend. Farmer's products were split between ACM and Westernport on the same day with the bulk going to Westernport. This left very little product available. Some days only one or two vendors were on campus. I would view this as a weakness.

Partners: City, WMHS, Farmers and Co-ops, Downtown Development Commission, ACM, Western MD Food Council

TRANSPORTATION

Accomplishment 1:

Outcome: Continue to explore options for parking strategies to improve the perception and reality of parking in the Central Business District

Projects:
Project 1: Center City Parking Garage Improvements
Project 2: Paving of Merchants Alley

Partners: City of Cumberland, Downtown Development Commission

Impact: Installed state of the art equipment with credit card readers to allow citizens and tourists to enter the garage. Installed art features in the stairwells and cameras to improve the aesthetics and safety, respectively, of the garage to make the garage more appealing. The existing Merchant's Alley parking lot was paved to improve access into critical parking area of businesses. All of these improvements were made to improve the customer experience for those accessing the central business district.

Accomplishment 2:

Outcome: Establish pedestrian improvements while abiding by current ADA standards

Action: Implement ADA improvements on street projects
Project 1: Mechanic Street Access Improvements
Project 2: Bellevue Sidewalk Improvements
Project 3: Cumberland Street Retaining Wall
Project 4: ADA Improvements at 218 Washington Street
Project 5: Amtrak Station Entryway Improvements

Partners: City of Cumberland, Cumberland Historical Society, Maryland Department of Transportation, ARC

Impact: These projects provide sidewalk improvements that converted non-compliant facilities into ADA compliant facilities to improve the safety and walkability of the city.

Accomplishment 3:

Outcome: Continued to establish a bicycle transportation network that links neighborhoods, local and tourist destinations while providing recreational and transportation opportunities for residents and tourists.

Action: Design projects that consider facilities to allow bikes and vehicles to share the road.
Project 1: Baltimore Street Access

Partners: City of Cumberland MDOT, CEDC, ARC, DDC, CPPDA, Allegany County

Impact: The Baltimore Street Access project will convert the downtown pedestrian mall into a one-way road that will comply with share-the-road bike policy. This project was designed during the last reporting period and will be in construction in 2022.

Accomplishment 4:

Outcome: Continue to improve roadways on all arterial and collector streets

Project 1: Greene Street Paving
Project 2: Mechanic Street Access Improvements
Project 3: South Street Paving
Project 4: General City Paving

Partners: City of Cumberland, MDOT, ARC, Columbia Gas of Maryland

Impact: Numerous city streets were paved during the last reporting period. Some of the projects were executed with grant funds, while others utilized City Funds or cost-sharing agreements with Columbia Gas. With each improvement, ADA facilities were brought into compliance.

Accomplishment 5:

Outcome: Modernize the City's Road system by updating traffic signage and lane markings, improving traffic signal system and street lighting system

Project 1: Baltimore Street Access
Project 2: Mechanic Street Access Improvements

Project 3: General City Sign Replacements

Partners: City of Cumberland, MDOT, ARC, CEDC, DDC

Impact: All new construction projects reviewed the existing sign network to see what signage improvements need to be made, particularly if there is a vehicle movement change. The City's Street Department regularly replaces signage and the Central Services Department routinely maintains lighting, replacing where necessary. The Baltimore Street Access project will install new lighting and replace the traffic controller at Mechanic/Baltimore Streets with state-of-the-art equipment. Starting in 2021, the city implemented a Traffic Light Improvement program to replace our traffic equipment which should continue for several years.

Accomplishment 6:

Outcome: Improve public access from Rt 51/Industrial Blvd into Wineow Street

Projects: Redesigned ingress and egress at the Footer Dye Works property and the Fairfield Inn and Suites

Partners: SHA, CPPDA, City of Cumberland, Private Developer, State of Maryland

Impact: Footer parking lot ingress and egress was established and paved using Historic Tax Credits, MD Bond funds, MHAA, and private funding.

OTHER LOCAL PLANNING AND LAND USE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Accomplishment 1:

Outcome: 2020 Cumberland Census Outreach

Projects:2020 Cumberland Census Outreach – In January 2020, The City of Cumberland was awarded a grant for Census Outreach activities. In coordination with the Allegany County Census Outreach Committee, strategies were created and implemented to encourage participation and educate community members on the importance of the Census. Strategies included setting up tables at various events with the intent of spreading awareness and trying to capture responses from historically harder to reach demographics.

Partners: City of Cumberland, Allegany County Government, Allegany County Census Outreach Committee, US Census Bureau, Maryland Historical Trust grant (totaling $8,000)

Impact: The presence at community events and ability to draw interest to Census tables had moderate impact on the community's awareness and participation in the 2020 Census.

ECONOMY

Accomplishment 1:

Outcome: Continue to make infrastructure improvements and physical enhancements to the Central Business District

Projects: Installed Wayfinding signage at Canal Place, and installed 15 ADA doors at the Western Maryland Railway Station, the restrooms at the Canal Place, Ships, and UNIT C5 (Cumberland Railroad Museum), Cumberland Main Street sprinkler tap program is funded, Upgrades to Centre Street downtown parklet ($75,000) including installation of historic façade

Partners: City of Cumberland, CPPDA, DDC, ARC, MHAA, CDBG

Impact: Wayfinding signage is now similar between the Cumberland Business District and Canal Place. ADA doors provide easier access for the physically challenged.

Accomplishment 2:

Outcome: Continue to grow under the Main Street Approach

Project: The Baltimore Street Revitalization Project will break ground in 2022 and construction is expected to last 12-18 months.

Partners: City of Cumberland, CEDC

Impact: This investment in Cumberland's main business district will foster growth of new businesses and provide an opportunity for the existing businesses to capitalize on a refreshed downtown. Using the Main Street Approach, which strives to strengthen the economic potential for Maryland's traditional main streets, the Downtown Development Commission will emphasize the importance of working in the following areas:
Design - Enhancing the physical appearance of the commercial district
Organization - Building consensus and cooperation among those who have a role in revitalization
Promotion - Marketing the commercial district's assets
Economic Restructuring - Strengthen the existing economic base, which finding ways to expand it
Clean, Safe and Green - Enhance the perception of the district through smart growth and sustainability

Accomplishment 3:

Outcome: Continue to support the Bridges 2 Opportunity Initiative

Project: The Bridges 2 Opportunity Initiative continues efforts to address poverty in Allegany County with several committees which include: Transportation Committee, Youth Engagement Workshop, Getting Ahead for All Workgroup, Resource Building Workgroup, Policy Workgroup, Child Care Committee, and the Steering Committee. These committees were formed to address the needs identified by people in the community. Bridges 2 Opportunity was designed to have the following outcomes:
• Move individuals from poverty to self-sufficiency
• Reduce social costs related to crime, poor health and welfare
• Strengthen educational attainment and job skills
• Enhance economic development and revitalize neighborhoods

Partners: Partners: Bridges to Opportunity continues to gain the in-kind support of over 30 organizations and hundreds of community residents including: Allegany County Human Resources Development Commission, Allegany College of Maryland, Western Maryland Health System, Allegany County Public Schools, Frostburg State University, Allegany County Health Department, Allegany County Department of Social Services, Cumberland Housing Group, City of Cumberland, My Bank, AHEC West, County United Way (Allegany County),Allegany County Public Libraries, ACT Personnel, Al-Gar Federal Credit Union, City of Frostburg, Friends Aware, Allegany County Government, North Branch Correctional Institution, Maryland Dept. of Education/Division of Rehab Services, and Allegany County American Job Center, First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland, Gateway Church West Campus, YMCA, St. John's, United Methodist Church, Union Rescue Mission, and Salvation Army.

Impact: Building Resources & Creating Opportunities
Individuals:
- *Getting Ahead – 18 facilitators trained and 95 Getting Ahead graduates*
- *R Rules- 75 completers through the After- School Program in Allegany County Schools and Burlington UM Family Services in West Virginia. Students demonstrated recall of program concepts.*
- *Getting Ahead Gathering – 41 participants increase social networking and get continued support.*
- *Updates from graduates include the following successes:*
  -Overcame the Cliff Effect and is no longer dependent on agency assistance!
  -Worked with our partners to achieve the driving hours necessary and then obtained driver's licenses. -Started her own business, bought a car and is completing childcare classes.
  -Completed a driver's education class and got her permit.
  -Bought a house and purchased a car.

-Mother and son who were unemployed and living at the Union Rescue Mission are both now employed and looking for housing.
-A graduate with immense social anxiety now plays in a band and attributed her achievement to Getting Ahead.
-After getting a job, a graduate with severe social anxiety went through the court process and was awarded visitation with his son.
-While working full-time at Archway Station, graduate achieved her LMSW from WVU.
-Completed their degrees in Human Services from Allegany College.
-Visited Capitol Hill as part of local Adult Basic Education program to meet with members of Maryland's federal delegation to advocate for program funding. Graduate specifically told by Senator Cardin's office to reach out to them for help with grants for entrepreneurial efforts.

Agencies/Institutions:
- *Child Care Pilot implemented to offer low income and single parents the opportunity to complete a certificate- based education program while developing a career path in the child care industry.*
- *HRDC Section 8's application was revised to enable the applicant to apply for either City, County or both. Preference is given based upon residency and employment.*
- *Housing Task Force explored scattered tiny houses, Home-sharing, Renovation/Rehabilitation, and Rent-to-Own/Community Land Trust.*
- *Spearheaded discussion to start drug court.*
- *Allegany County Public Libraries revised their computer use policies. Patrons who may owe too much money to borrow materials can now get a "visitors pass" to use the computers inside the libraries.*
- *Allegany Law contacted Bridges about ways to collaborate on expungement opportunities.*
- *Promoted HRDC Financial Literacy course.*
- *Getting Ahead while Getting Out offered at Allegany County Detention Center. Getting Ahead classes are offered to students seeking GEDs as part of their course work.*
- *Allegany College has implemented campus food pantries for students who are food insecure.*
- *WMHS held program for WMHS Behavioral Health employees regarding how people from different economic classes experience the health care delivery system differently and techniques for communicating effectively with all patients.*
- *Development of Path2Help- online community resource directory.*

Community:
- *Focus groups to identify barriers and future hope facilitated by FSU Social Work Students in community, and with 1088 Middle and High School students.*
- *Presentations to increase awareness of getting by vs getting ahead reached 798 people.*
- *Poverty simulations aimed at providing a "real life" understanding of what those living in instability face on a day-to-day basis reached 581 people at WMHS, FSU, ACPS, CareFirst-CUW and DSS.*
- *Scholarships have been established at ACM for graduates wishing to take the driver's license course.*
- *First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland has established a pool of volunteers willing to supervise the driving hours needed by the Getting Ahead graduates trying to get their license.*
- *Bridges to Transportation B2T committee is evaluating the idea of a donated vehicle program, like that of Second Chances Garage, in Frederick, MD.*
- *Little Pantries were built and remain filled through shared efforts by County United Way, Carpenter's Union, Wellness Ambassadors, Allegany County Public Libraries, and several community groups*

- *The Community Trust Foundation created a video about Bridges and how transportation and child care support has enabled Getting Ahead investigators to progress.*
- *Collaborated with Al-Gar Federal Credit Union to implement a small dollar loan program for graduates.*
- *Advocating for 21st Century Community Learning Centers.*

Funding has been provided by: Allegany County, Allegany College of Maryland Foundation, Betsey and Doug Schwab, City of Cumberland, Community Trust Foundation, County United Way – Impact Grant, DelFest Foundation, First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland, Frostburg State University, Local Management Board of Allegany County (Governor's Office of Children), Western Maryland Health System, Women's Action Coalition and Standard Bank.

Accomplishment 5:
Outcome: Pursue long term goal/vision of opening an incubator program

Project: Expand the IT Center for Excellence, giving it actual space, and being a catalyst for startup businesses in the tech arena.
Partners: CECD, ACM, City of Cumberland

Impact: IT Center for Excellence program has experienced significant growth in the past five years. Since 2015, Allegany College of Maryland has been awarded nearly $1.7 million from EARN Maryland as administered by the Maryland Department of Labor. It has funded over 650 seats of training to our service region, providing internships, hosting a Tech at the Gap Conference (2021 is the 5-year anniversary) and supporting STEM initiatives like P-TECH, REACT robotics, Girls Who Code, and the Mountain Maryland Tech Network. The most recent award of $566,000.00 will fund 350 seats of training over the next two years. IT Center will have completed 1,000 seats of training programs over a seven- year period.

Accomplishment 6:
Outcome: Continue to plan incentive programs to assist with building rehabilitation and small business development

Project: Two leasehold improvements and redevelopment projects in downtown

Partners: Downtown Development Commission, City of Cumberland, Cumberland Economic Development Corporation, small business community

Impact: Improvements at 5 new businesses and repurposed architecturally significant structures to locally zoned historic district, invested in 7 small businesses to spur reinvestment in the central business district, improving the retail core with jobs creation and retention

Accomplishment 7:
Outcome: Development of Residential Units in the Central Business District

Project 1: Consult with professional services to perform a housing market analysis and needs assessment. The assessment of housing needs will include at least the following data:
- *Demographic characteristics of the population (e.g., age, household composition, race/ethnicity)*
- *Economic characteristics of the population (e.g., household income, labor force participation, commuting patterns)*
- *Housing affordability (for the City's population as a whole, as well as across income, racial and age groups)*
- *Characteristics of the local workforce (e.g., place of residence, industry, earnings)*
- *Patterns of in- and out-migration*

Project 2: Complete a housing inventory analysis consisting of:
- *Housing type (e.g., single-family, multifamily, manufactured housing)*
- *Housing tenure (e.g., renter-occupied, owner-occupied)*

- *Home prices and rents*
- *Housing quality*
- *New construction*
- *Recent sales trends*
- *Locations (e.g., proximity to amenities, transportation, job centers)*
- *Subsidized properties*
- *Vacant and blighted properties*
- *Housing and facilities for special populations, including the homeless, older adults, persons living with HIV/AIDS, and persons with physical and mental disabilities*

Project 3: Two upper-story redevelopment projects in downtown
Partners: Downtown Development Commission, City of Cumberland, Cumberland Economic Development Corporation, small business community
Impact: Improvements to upper story buildings downtown for residential and commercial use, the creation of a residential unit while increasing mixed-use business below in the central business district

Partners: CEDC, City of Cumberland, General Public, Private Sector Stakeholders

Impact: The project produced interim deliverables through the project; however, we completed a fully formatted and easily accessible final report for the City and CEDC to reference.
City Five-Year Plan: *The consultant team produced interim deliverables through the project and completed a fully formatted and easily accessible final Five-Year Plan for the City to upload into HUD's IDIS system. Project deliverables complied with 24 CFR Part 91 and all HUD requirements.*
 Analysis of Impediments: *The Consultant team submitted the draft AI plan with supporting data in electronic format to City staff. After review and acceptance of the draft report, the plan and supporting data was released to the public and provided 30 calendar days to submit comments. The Consultant team reviewed, summarized and addressed all comments, received in writing or orally, through the public comment period and prepared a revised AI for approval. Final approval of the plan was received by Mayor and City Council in June of 2020*

Accomplishment 8:
Outcome: Continue update of Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties surveys:

Project: Produced a Cumberland Historic Survey Project by Historic architecture, LLC. Narrative: 2017 CLG funds. Identified survey areas as Canada-Viaduct Historic District, Janes Gates House and Gates Family Houses, The Dingle, and White Oaks Survey District.

Partners: NPS US Dept. of the Interior, MHT, MD Dept of Planning.

Impact: Recommendations have been made for further research, encouragement of Tax Credits, etc.

Accomplishment 9:
Outcome: Continued to educate the public on the value of historic resources

Project: Annual MHAA trainings were held from 2017-2021.

Partners: City of Cumberland, CPPDA, Allegany County Heritage Association

Impact: MHAA grant training held at Canal Place enabled heritage area grant applicants to be eligible and to be awarded those grants.

Accomplishment 10:

Outcome: Created local job opportunities through linkages with the area's institutions of higher education by introducing younger citizens (high school, middle school) to opportunities within the area that do not require an education outside of our local resources and will lead to successful careers.

Project 1: The Allegany Arts Council works routinely with local partners to encourage students and adults in our community to explore careers in the arts. During the plan cycle, we have served as presenters at Allegany County Public Schools' Focus on the Future program for middle school students, and worked with Maryland Business Roundtable on Education to discuss artistic careers and arts administration with high school students in our area. We present arts education programming to all third and fifth grade students in Allegany County, and in 2019, conducted a 9-month music education program for all Allegany County middle school students. Each year, we host a county-wide student art showcase, and have partnered with Frostburg State University to offer scholarships to senior students. We have also established a scholarship program in which one award will be given to a senior at each local high school, and we partnered with our local NAACP chapter in 2021 to support development of a scholarship for a BIPOC student pursuing visual or performing arts careers.

Partners: Allegany Arts Council, Allegany County Public Schools, Maryland Business Roundtable on Education, Frostburg State University, NAACP

Impact:

Accomplishment 11:

Outcome: Deploy a broadband network that will help to make the area competitive in attracting technology-based jobs.

Maryland Broadband Demonstration Program-Cumberland Main Street Fiber Installation funds acquired

Partners: ARC, MHAA, DDC, CEDC, City of Cumberland

Impact: Improved infrastructure, increase fiber access to improve ability to work remotely

Accomplishment 12:

Outcome: Engaged in redesign and redevelopment of targeted areas to encourage additional private investment and infrastructure improvements.

Project 1: In 2021, Cumberland's Arts & Entertainment District launched an initiative, focused on revitalization planning, which placed quilts made by local artists in the windows of businesses, both vacant and occupied, within the downtown commercial corridor. The initiative helped attract attention to available commercial properties ripe for investment and redevelopment. Available incentives were promoted and marketed prior to and during the program. Since then, the District has been contacted by several current building owners or investors interested in working with it on public art projects and artistic projects to highlight properties for sale.

Partners: Downtown Development Commission, Local Businesses

Impact: The District has been contacted by several current building owners or investors interested in working with it on public art projects and artistic projects to highlight properties for sale.

Project 2: In 2020, recognizing the need for a single place for commercial real estate information in the District, Cumberland's Arts & Entertainment District committed to the development of a website which will house a rotating MLS feed. A partnership was established with a local real estate agency who will supply this information regularly. The website is in development and expected to launch in 2022.

Partners: Allegany Arts Council, Historic Highlands Association of Realtors

Impact: This will provide a one-stop-shop of sorts for all things real estate for the area.

Project 3: The District continued to invest in projects which often result in expanded investment or to prepare the District area for further expansion. The District completed a project to repaint the landings of six floors of the City's least-utilized parking garage, designing and fabricating large metal signage highlighting the activities available within the District, including shopping, dining, theatre, etc. The District also completed phase one of work to make aesthetic improvements to an

area known as Merchant's Alley, which serves as back-door entrances to many downtown businesses. Phase one including the repainting of commercial entrances and replacement of a broken dumpster gate. In 2022, a mural is planned for the alley as well as the powder coating of street furniture to unify the area.

Partners: Allegany Arts Council, Downtown Development Commission

Impact: Improved the aesthetics for a gateway area to the downtown business district

OTHER ECONOMY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Accomplishment 1:

Outcome: Repurpose blighted neighborhood for a 4.5-acre commercial development

Projects:
Project 1: Negotiate and purchase properties from owners at a fair price. Provide relocation assistance for residents
Project 2: Abate and demolish properties located within project site
Project 3: Partner with a developer to improve the property with commercial development. Add new amenities into our local market

Partners: CEDC, City of Cumberland, Allegany County Government, State of Maryland

Impact: Removal of blight, increased tax base, new job creation, right-sizing community

Accomplishment 2:

Outcome: Completed a Civic Master Plan for the City
*Project 1: **Illustrative Master Plan(s**). The consultant team developed an illustrative master plan for the entire downtown to demonstrate how the city should develop over time. This plan highlighted transportation networks, land use, building orientation, parking, green infrastructure, and the interconnection of key public areas.*

Partners: CEDC, City of Cumberland, Private Stakeholders

Impact: Once adopted, this Master Plan now provides guidance for futuristic and aspirational planning among all City Departments. It will, over time, allow the city to work more cohesively toward a common goal in land usage and placemaking. It yielded a visual document that was publicly vetted and set obtainable goals for the city to achieve over time (short term and long term).

Quality of Life

Accomplishment 1:

Outcome: Create an eco-tourism based, multi-use plan for the North Branch of the Potomac.

Project 1: A concept plan and feasibility study for the river park and survey for the river park

Partners: CPPDA, City of Cumberland, Tri County Council, SHA, MDP, Allegany County Tourism, Frostburg State University, local business owners, Downtown Development Commission, Allegany Arts Council, NPS
Funding: ARC $30,000, MHAA $79,500, City of Cumberland (hotel/motel funds), Allegany County $5,000

Impact: The feasibility study and concept plan were completed, leading the way for a river park boundary survey and identification of property owners, which is currently underway. In addition, a prospectus for the river park mitigation was completed and is currently being reviewed by the Army Corps of Engineers and the Maryland Department of the Environment.

Accomplishment 2:

Outcome: Re-water the C&O Canal from Canal Place Basin to Elizabeth Street and improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay.

Project: Re-water the canal from the canal place basin approximately 1.5 miles towards the Mason Complex

Partners: MDE, NPS, CPPDA, City of Cumberland, Tri-County, DNR, Health Dept., Allegany County, Allegany College of Maryland

Impact: This project is to go hand in hand with the replacement of the CSO pipe from Canal Place to the sewer treatment plant. The city is taking the lead with support from the CPPDA.

Accomplishment 3:

Outcome: Provide cultural, visual, and musical arts programming for residents and tourists.

Projects: Movie night on the Canal Place Festival Grounds, River and Rails Festival, A Mazing City, 4th of July Celebration with band, other band performances, Heritage Days, Whiskey Rebellion, Private festivals and events.

Partners: City of Cumberland, DDC, AAC, CPPDA, Heritage Association, Allegany Museum, Allegany County Tourism, local nonprofits, Shop owners at Canal Place.

Impact: These events have attracted more tourists into the area and more residents downtown thus enhancing local businesses in the area.

Funding: MHAA, private funds, Arts Council, sponsorships

Accomplishment 4:

Outcome: Continued to maintain and improve Cumberland's gateway entrances and corridors including new signage.

Projects: TAC signage and Scenic By-Way signage installed.

Partners: City of Cumberland, DDC, SHA, CPPDA, Scenic Byways

Impact: The signage made it easier to identify areas at Canal Place, Downtown Cumberland, and the Scenic Railroad.

Funding: SHA

Accomplishment 5:

Outcome: Preserve cultural and historical assets within the city and encourage public access to such assets

Projects: Expansion of the Canal Place Heritage Area further into Cumberland and the re-branding of the Canal Place Heritage Area to Passages of the Western Potomac Heritage Area. Grants were awarded to Jane Gates House, the Allegany Museum, The Episcopal Church, the Downtown Cumberland Mall, George Washington Headquarters preserved, Interior Renovations and restoration to the Allegany Museum, Cumberland Theatre Rehabilitation Project, YMCA Dehumidification Project, African American Preservation Program Funding Carver School repairs.

Partners: Heritage Association, Canal Place Heritage Area, CPPDA, DDC, Historic Preservation

Commission, Allegany Museum, Allegany County Tourism, AAC, City Parks and Recreation, Daughters of American Revolution, Allegany Co Commissioners, City of Cumberland, NAACP, CEDC, Allegany Co. Board of Education, Cumberland YMCA, WMHS, The Cumberland Theatre, Allegany Museum

Impact: The expansion of the heritage area allowed more applicants to receive MHAA funding, thereby attracting more tourist to the area and allowing grant recipients to fund their capital and non-capital projects.

Funding: MHAA, Passages of the Western Potomac Heritage Area Mini grants, MHT, Community Legacy Grant Program, City of Cumberland Block Grant funds

Accomplishment 6:

Outcome: Continue to pursue collaboration between business, educational, non-profit and governmental agencies to enhance opportunities and contribute to workforce development for the region and the global economy

Project: Development of Western Maryland Works, a dedicated lab space for advanced manufacturing, digital fabrication, industrial maintenance, machining, robotics, welding and woodworking. Serves more than 10 rural and underserved communities in MD, WV and PA. Accomplishment: VERSO Retraining Program 70 dislocated workers enrolled in ACM's Career and Employer Solutions Industrial maintenance, machining, and welding classes. 20 participants found employment and/or completed training, taking positions with American Container Systems, MD Department of Corrections, MD Department of Juvenile Services, American Wordmark, Automated Packaging Systems, Web Restaurant, WV Division of Forestry. Majority of current 53 VERSO participants will complete training in December 2021, the remainder in March 2022.

Partners: ACM, City of Cumberland, CEDC

Impact: Offering a variety of choices for job growth, lower unemployment rate.

Accomplishment 7:

Outcome: Provided technical assistance and partnerships for funding opportunities for area museums, arts facilities, and the library system by partnering with the library system to provide technical assistance and funding recommendations for capital improvement projects for the two Cumberland branches.

Projects: Renovated South Cumberland Library-ribbon cut September 2021
-Transformed indoor programs for kids and families to outdoor programming activities in local parks during the pandemic by creating Storytime in the Parks
-Provided hotspots and Chromebooks to increase access to technology during the pandemic similar to borrowing books (located at the S Cumberland Library).
-Created a program of "Pop-Up" libraries to reach the community during pandemic shut-downs
-Restored and refurbished the 160-year columns at the front of the Washington Street Library-receiving the Sue Cerruti Historic Preservation Award in 2020.

Partners: City of Cumberland, Constitution Park, Canal Place, local law enforcement, the Judy Center, DNR, other healthcare providers

Funding: Community Development Block Grant

Accomplishment 8:

Outcome: Pursue Restaurant Services and Hospitality Internships with a potential hotel operator within a targeted structure located in the Central Business District

No firm action plan. Two prospective purchasers of the M&T building. Pro forma agreement months away. Enrollment suffered drastically during Covid and we are aggressively marketing our hospitality and culinary curricula. Major accomplishments include: (1) the $82,000 MSDE Innovation Grant to purchase a catering van to enhance our Catering & Event Management Certificate (and allow us to cater off-premises) and (2) the MHEC approval of a Brewing Operations Certificate. For the latter, we have MOUs in place with Dig Deep Brewery, 1812 Brewery, Locust Post Brewery, and Olde Bedford Brewing Company. These allow our students to complete skills-development and internships on-site and (3) the $20,000 MSDE Reserve Funds Grant to support the Brewing Operations Certificate.

Accomplishment 9:
Outcome: Work with stakeholders to increase arts experiences in the city and create an arts destination

Projects: Arts Bus Wrap, A Mazing City

Partners: Allegany Arts Council, City of Cumberland, Downtown Development Commission, Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority, Artists, Public

Impact: Programming was increased, arts walks and art projects occurred which encourages more visitors to the area and educates the public on art.

Funding: Passages of the Western Potomac Mini Grants through MHAA

Housing

Accomplishment 1:
Outcome: Completed a blighted property action plan and began to implement recommendations to address blight and revitalization of the Sustainable Communities Area.

Project 1: The City of Cumberland has built and successfully managed a Blight Action Plan built with help from West Virginia University, CPD, CFD and the Community Development Staff. The plan involved a number system to address the blighted properties and rank them in order from worst to least amount needed.

Project 2: The Community Development Staff organized the properties for demolition and successfully removed those blighted structures from the inventory of housing stock.

Project 3: The Community Development Code Enforcement Officers worked with owners of the properties that were identified as marginal properties to bring those units back into compliance and so they could be removed from the blight action plan.

Project 4: The City of Cumberland has partnered with developers from outside our area to begin infill housing in the shape of single-family units and multi-unit buildings that will address the needs of low to moderate income families.

Project 5: Developers have started the construction of a 4 story multi-unit housing project. A developer that has partnered with the State of Maryland on various projects is now seeking investment opportunities in the Cumberland area. Existing developers and contractors in our area have a renewed interest in growing their investments, because they have seen the strides the city has made in the recent past.

Project 6: The City of Cumberland has identified redevelopment sites located within the city limits. In these areas we have acquired properties by means of donation. Demolition has occurred in these areas with funds in the Community Development Neighborhood Revitalization Budget and by partnering with Allegany County to remove the blighted structures. These areas of redevelopment will be held in the Cities land bank until all properties have been acquired and can be turned over to developers for new construction. The city has begun exploring alternative options of funding from the State of Maryland for blight removal

Project 7: Provided environmental abatement, demolition, site excavation and traffic control for two properties on Virginia Avenue where a retaining wall compromised the properties along Oldtown Road. Planned elimination of blighted properties to encourage redevelopment. Other demolition and site abatement for a total of seven properties within the 600 block of Maryland Avenue.

Partners: City of Cumberland, Allegany County Government, Cumberland Housing Group

Accomplishment 2:

Outcome: Provide Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers

Project 1: Perform outreach and education to ensure fair housing opportunities and affirmatively further fair housing. Efforts included acquiring a new 2020 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing and City of Cumberland Human Relations Commission and Senior Community Development Commission has been addressing identified impediments in the fair housing annual strategic plan development.
Cumberland Neighborhood Housing under The Cumberland Housing Group administered closing cost grants to 13 low-moderate income qualifying people to own a home in Cumberland. Twelve of those residences were located within the Sustainable Communities Cumberland boundaries.

Partners: The Cumberland Housing Group, Maryland Commission on Civil Rights, Cumberland Human Relations Commission, Allegany College of Maryland, City of Cumberland

Impact: Increased homeownership opportunities in the area and
Funds: CDBG grants funded fair housing efforts and closing cost grants

Accomplishment 3:

Outcome: Rental Units Constructed or Rehabilitated

Project A: Seek Opportunities to increase new housing construction (single family or multi-unit construction to increase housing stock

Project 1: 11 new single-family homes were constructed
Project 2: 1 new multi-unit residential 40 unit under construction on Reynolds Street
Project 3: 117 affordable rental units rehabilitated at 3 multi-unit sites; 217 Centre Street, 50 Lamont Street, 2 Howard Street.

Accomplishment 4:

Outcome: Improve compliance to the property maintenance code by decreasing the amount of time to resolve property maintenance code violations.

Project 1: The Mayor & City Council recognized the need for increased Code Enforcement within the city. The Community Development department was able to increase their Enforcement staff from a manager and 2 officers to the current level of a manager and 3 officers. This and new ordinances have made the enforcement of blighted property and nuisances easier to handle and eliminate.

Project 2: Implemented new Community Development software that helped to more efficiently recognize, track and resolve code enforcement issues. This began with the use of Google Drive in 2017 and in 2020 switched to a program called Citizenserve. Additionally, an aggregate program called Building Blocks (by Tolemi) was purchased and implemented in 2021, allowing data from multiple sources and departments to be compiled and analyzed in one location.

Partners: City of Cumberland, Citizenserve, Tolemi

Impact: Significantly reduced time in responding to code complaints and a more streamlined process by which to get issues resolved.

Accomplishment 5:

Outcome: Provide programs that make housing units more energy efficient in order to increase affordability of utility bills and decrease energy consumption

Project 1: The Weatherization and Limited Income Energy Efficiency Programs provide home energy assessments, also known as a home energy audit, to low-income residents, which helps the residents understand the whole picture of their home's energy use, comfort and safety. An assessment can help determine how much energy a home uses, where a home is inefficient and which problem areas and fixes should be prioritized to save energy and improve the comfort of the home. If the existing condition of the dwelling permits, the program may provide the following treatments / measures, at no cost to a tenant or owner-occupied dwelling, both to reduce the consumption of energy and the cost of maintenance for these homes:

- *air infiltration reduction*
- *insulation in the attic, floors, walls*
- *hot water system improvements*
- *lighting retrofit*
- *furnace clean/tune, safety repairs, burner retrofit or replacement*
- *health and safety items*

Partners: Allegany County Human Resources Development Commission, Inc. (HRDC), MD Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Housing and Building Energy Programs

Impact: Repairs and upgrades to a home can significantly reduce energy use throughout the year, which can make a home more comfortable, lower monthly power bills and improve air quality and family health. Reducing air leakage in a home saves money and energy; insulation saves money and improves comfort; controlling moisture can make your home more energy-efficient, less costly to heat and cool and more comfortable; and controlled ventilation keeps energy-efficient homes healthy and comfortable.

National Evaluation: Through the weatherization improvements and upgrades, these households save on average $283 or more every year and after Weatherization, families have homes that are more livable, resulting in fewer missed days of work (i.e., sick days, doctor visits) and decreased out-of-pocket medical expenses by an average of $514.

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: Improve public access from MD Route 51 to Wineow Street

Narrative: This outcome has not been completed as no immediate solution has been identified. The intersection of MD-51, North Mechanic Street, Centre Street and Queen City Drive is problematic due to the various directions that traffic flows. With the completion of the Footer Dye Works building, the need for this connection becomes more prevalent and could spur further need as new businesses establish themselves.

Outcome: Develop more consistent and easier to understand zoning and subdivision regulations between city and county administered lands in the Willowbrook Road Gateway corridor.

Narrative: There was no committee established specifically for this reason. There were no text amendments requested for major changes, so the current zoning and subdivision regulations are sufficient.

Accomplishment 3: Document 2013 plan implementation efforts in the 2018 Planning Commission Annual Report

Narrative: City of Cumberland staff maintains records and provides implementation progress to the Maryland Department of Planning on an annual basis.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL REPORT

PART II: COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT

Purpose:
The purpose of the comprehensive assessment is to capture indicators of accomplishments in each Sustainable Community. Indicators should reflect the five-year time period since the adoption of the Sustainable Communities Action Plan. Thus, the following questions focus on the common outcomes that were identified in the various Sustainable Community Action Plans approved by the State. The assessment will be grouped in the sections of Environment, Economy, Transportation, Housing, Quality of Life, and Land Use.

Please answer the following questions to the best of your knowledge.
Check "**YES**" if applicable to your community. If you answer "**YES**" please quantify the accomplishment (i.e., Q: Has there been an increase in the number of businesses in your Main Street/commercial district? A: YES 4 new businesses have opened in the past five years). If necessary, please also provide a short description of the accomplishment.

Please check "**NO**" if the question item did not have any impact on your community. If you answer **"NO"** please briefly summarize what kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes.
Check "**N/A**", if the question item does not apply to your Sustainable Community.

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.	X			*A 5-million-gallon CSO storage tank was constructed adjacent to the Water Reclamation Facility; completed in November 2020, online in 2021. Combined sewer overflows (CSO) to the Potomac River from CSO Outfall 002 have reduced in occurrence from over two dozen per year to only two the first 11 months of 2021.*
2. Have you improved wildlife habitat in your community? Ex. native plantings, pollinator gardens, rain gardens	X			*The urban tree canopy is maintained and kept healthy by pruning and removing hazardous limbs/trees. Trees planted annually to increase the tree canopy working toward the urban tree canopy goal. Native trees are primarily selected and the right tree in the right place message is utilized with each planting. By working to increase the urban tree canopy, the urban wildlife habitat is maintained; in some cases, improved.* *Over the 5-year period 290 trees were planted in the City's ROWs (public property). Approximately, 200 tree saplings were provided free to the community for planting on private property.*
3. Have you increased access to green space, parks or outdoor recreational opportunities?	X			*A considerable increase in usage of the City's outdoor Parks, Playgrounds and Sports facilities has occurred as a result of the ongoing COVID Pandemic. Usage of picnic facilities increased during the worst of the pandemic over previous years. The facilities were safe, clean areas in the outdoors, kept that way by City maintenance staff.*
4. Have you implemented operational sustainability practices (example: town hall enhancements) and or community-based practices? (ex. Rain barrels or rain	X			*Recycling: A new contract for solid waste and recycling was implemented in July 2019. This was the second 5-year contract with curbside recycling. This program was enhanced in 2019 by increasing collections to weekly (previously alternating weeks). Curbside recycling is collected in dual stream: Co-mingled Containers & Mixed Paper on a weekly basis. The enhanced collection has increased the collected recycling commodity by 15% in the first two years of the contract.*

| gardens at residences, recycling, composting etc.) | | | | *The city participated in a multi-day electronics collection event as part of the Allegany Solid Waste Management Board utilizing a multijurisdictional grant. During the event 73 tons of electronics were responsibly recycled in one week! Another result of this event was the Board started promoting venues where the public could recycle electronics on a regular basis instead of waiting for a once-a-year collection event.*

Additionally, The City participated with the County and assisted in funding for two (2) Household Hazardous Waste collection events. One (1) tire recycling collection event was held.

In 2018 the city partnered with Allegany County's Solid Waste Management Board for a backyard composter sale and compost workshop. 60 compost bins were sold to the public in a pre-sale. The compost workshop was open to compost bin recipients and the general public.

The City participated and assisted in funding for two (2) Household Hazardous Waste collection events. |
| **OTHER**: | | | | |

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?	X			*There are currently 37 retail shops and 20 restaurants in the Main Street Business District. There are an additional 68 non-restaurant and non-retail businesses. From 2017 – 2021, we have had 30 new businesses open in our Main Street/Commercial district. This translated to approximately 55 new full-time jobs and 23 new part-time jobs during this five-year period. Conversely, there were 11 businesses that closed during the five -year period - mostly in 2020 and 2021 – a direct result of the pandemic. Net number of new businesses totals 19.* *One new business was established at Canal Place (Dig Deep at Canal Place). In addition, the Footer's Dye Works building was completely revitalized and Dig Deep Brewery and Monumental Insurance Company opened in the Footer.*
2. Did the Municipality/ Sustainable Community area receive any designations that support local economic development?	X			*The Municipality received 3 designated Opportunity Zones located within its central business district and beyond.* *The Passages of the Western Potomac Heritage Area expanded further into Cumberland*
3. Has there been an increase in foot traffic in the Main Street/commercial district?	X			*More recently, yes. However, Data shows that we are approaching foot traffic numbers that we experienced in the early 2000's 2010's. At that period, the numbers were trending downward but have steadily increased in more recent years. The emergence of the Greater Allegheny Passage, new businesses and increased outdoor dining have largely driven this upward trend. GAP trail numbers increased 2017-76,562, 2018-46,221 (rainy year), 2019-61,063, 2020-99,074. Other visitation (WMSR, Visitors Center) was down in 2020 due to COVID 19 pandemic.*
4. Have the number of commercial vacancies decreased?	X			*We are seeing a commercial property demand increase in the industrial sector (warehouses, light manufacturing) and retail sector. Office space has drastically declined, largely due to COVID-19. Canal Place Shops are full and the WMSR has 2 vacancies.*
5. Has there been an increase in local jobs within the Sustainable Community for its residents?		X		*Although we have experienced several new business openings, we have had a number of closures as well. We predict they have offset one-another, however we forecast a gradual increase in job creation over the next 5 years.*

	YES	NO	N/A	
6. Has there been an increase in workforce development training or other opportunities for connecting potential employees to well-paying jobs?	X			*Roundtables have been established to help bridge a communication gap between the private and public sector and our higher education partners. Through this forum, direct job placement curriculum has been created to cater to the workforce needs of the private sector. This has been a great success within the Manufacturing and IT sectors.* *A 200k sq. ft. "Maker's Space" has also been developed through a partnership with Allegany County Government and Allegany College of Maryland. This has served as an integral addition towards the future of workforce development for advanced trade skills*
OTHER:				

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?		X		*No additional bike paths have been added to the City's network. Funding and other project priorities have prevented the city from pursuing additional bike trails/paths.*
2. Have there been improvements to the public transit infrastructure?		X		*This is a service typically provided by Allegany County. The city is considering providing this service to aid individuals who need transportation to work places. A 2017 transportation study provided a cost/benefit analysis to provide a clover shaped "loop" bus route which runs every ½ to 1 hour in Cumberland. Pursuing funds would be the next step.*
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	X			*Sidewalks have been improved through the CDBG and MDOT projects. All sidewalk projects are required to meet ADA requirements unless the existing topography makes it impossible. New sidewalks are not a priority, as the city is mostly urbanized and neighborhoods already have them. ADA ramps are lacking and this is priority with every infrastructure project that the city pursues.*

	YES	NO	N/A	
been a noticeable increased use of these walking places?				
4. Have there been any roadway improvements that support "Complete" or "Green" streets?	X			*The city is moving forward with a streetscape project that uses the stormwater system to infiltrate directly in tree planting beds in the Central Business District (Baltimore Street Access project). This project will revamp 950 LF of sidewalk with "Green" elements. Due to the cost and real estate requirements of "Green" infrastructure, this is typically not an element that City is able to afford*
5. Has traffic congestion along major roads decreased? (Amount in percent)		X		*Traffic congestion has not decreased by any measurable margin but this is typically not an issue within the city due to our population. Traffic congestion is often limited to core hours in the morning and afternoon and dissipates quickly compared to larger communities. The City has implemented a program to improve intersection signals that should aid the majority of our congestion issues.*
OTHER:				

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?	X energy effic.	X resident ial facades/ interiors		*Allegany County Human Resources Development Commission (HRDC) provided weatherization to increase energy efficiency for 227 low-income households by providing an array of services to include: replacing light bulbs with energy efficient ones, faucet aerators, low-flow shower heads, hot water heater blankets, limited insulation, heating system cleaning/tune ups/replacements.*
2. Has the home ownership rate increased?	X			*Twelve of the 13 first-time homeowner closing cost grants were located within the Sustainable Communities area of Cumberland. Though citywide data lists an estimated homeownership rate of 51.5% compared to 68.8% in Allegany Co. Homeownership rates have declined since 2010 in both the city of Cumberland and Allegany County.*

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?	X			*11 new homes have been built and 1 multi residential complex (40 units) is under construction. Rehab of affordable units include: 217 Centre St. (13 units), 50 Lamont St./River Bend Court (80 units), and 2 Howard St./Footer Dyeworks (24 units)*
4. Has there been demolition of blighted properties?	X			*Over the past five years, the aging stock of housing in Cumberland was addressed through a comprehensive approach to removing dangerous and blighted properties throughout the Sustainable Communities area. The private sector was responsible for demolishing 64 structures and 10 accessory structures (garages, sheds, etc.). The City of Cumberland was responsible for demolishing 76 unsafe or blighted structures and zero accessory structures. Specifically, the Maryland Avenue Project oversaw the demolition of 46 structures in a predominantly blighted neighborhood which will now be repurposed for commercial development.*
5. Has the residential vacancy rate decreased?		X		*In 2019 the rental vacancy rate for Cumberland was 13.15% which demonstrates a 3-year increase of nearly 3% and an increase of nearly 6% over 2018.*
6. Has the jurisdiction partnered with any community development corporations to improve its housing stock, increase the availability of 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?		X		*There are currently no community development corporations in Cumberland or Allegany County. The Bridges 2 Opportunity Housing Committee explored the development of a CHDO over the past 5 years. There was no existing non-profit willing to take on the responsibility. The City of Cumberland has partnered with The Cumberland Housing Group to increase the availability of affordable housing and City CDBG funding has supported the CoC homeless service providers: HRDC at Laura's Anchor in South Cumberland and YMCA at Gilchrist transitional housing downtown facility. For example, CDBG funds have expanded the ladies' section to include 8 new SRO units, a kitchen, laundry area, huge bathroom, and lounge area, provided a playground area for families living at the YMCA, updated family apartments, and removed/replace antiquated HVAC units from the men's 3rd floor living area. In partnership with HRDC, Allegany County Department of Social Services and Associated Charities, the City of Cumberland has expanded its annual Emergency Housing Assistance grant using CDBG-CARES ACT funds ($252,000) to prevent rental evictions and utility payments.*

	YES	NO	N/A	
7. Has there been an increase in homeownership counseling services or individuals accessing such services?	X			*HRDC reports 235 requests for HUD certified housing counseling services. Seventy-nine people out of the 129 who completed the course were Cumberland residents who gained access to the First-time Homebuyer MD Mortgage Down Payment Assistance Program. Five of those counseled purchased homes in Cumberland over the 5-year period.*
OTHER:				
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?	X			*7 historic properties used SRP-CL '16 Leasehold Improvement funds during 2017-18: 40-48 N. Centre St. ($10,000), 2 Howard St. ($15,004.00), 56 N. Centre St. ($20,000.00), 45 N. Centre St. ($20,000.00), 114 S. Centre St. ($9,869.00), 129 Baltimore St. ($20,000.00), 66-72 Pershing St. ($5,124.81). Unsure of lead or asbestos hazards due to unknown staff records.*
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.	X			*The McCoury Stage at Liberty Street Plaza was refurbished with new plywood for the floor of the stage, which was rotting. This is a central gathering place for community events and entertainment. The Arts Council repainted all of the back doors to the businesses with rear entrances in Merchant's Alley.* *The Cumberland Railroad Museum was established during this time period.* *July 4th Fireworks -visible throughout the Community and related July 4th community events.* *Summer Sunday in the Park Concert Series – Live Music/Entertainment Memorial Day to Labor Day- Constitution Park Amphitheater* *Family Outdoor Movie and Free Swim Nights at Constitution Park* *Halloween Party at Constitution Park* *Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Constitution Park* *Annual Santa and Friends with Candy in Conjunction with Downtown Tree Lighting*

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.	X			*The annual Heritage Days Festival (cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic), came back in 2021. There were activities for children, families, and adults. Festivities included vendor booths with art, live music, historical reenactments, displays and tours, food and drink booths, and other activities. Cumberland also offers citizens the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony, geared towards all ages, and News Year's Eve Ball Drop focused on families and adults. Cumberland's downtown Historic City Center offers numerous events throughout the year that include live music, shopping events, car shows, and vendor booths.* *Festivals and events have attracted tourists and residents to the Canal Place Festival Grounds.* *Examples include CASA Wine Festival, River and Rails Festival, Heritage Days, the Whisky Rebellion, bands at Canal Place, movie nights at Canal Place, Del McCoury played on the festival grounds, private nonprofit groups book the festival grounds for their events, the Arts Council A Mazing City.*
4. Have there been any changes in access to health and wellness services? Examples include mobile clinics, hospitals, telehealth opportunities.	X			*CPD has established the Drug Abatement Response Team (DART) After each person is encountered on the street with a suspected overdose or an actual overdose and is administered naloxone and taken to the hospital the police department activates the Drug Abatement Response Team (DART). After each encounter within 48 hours after the incident a team consisting of a police officer and drug addictions peer counselor track down the person involved and have a face-to-face meeting with them to follow-up with them and further offer them services.*
5. Are there any residential health and wellness opportunities in place (i.e., athletic facilities, recreational indoor/outdoor courses or groups)?	X			*Three Community Gardens have been established on former recreation facility (3) land owned by the City. UMPC Health System operates the program allowing citizens to plant vegetable and flower gardens.*

	YES	NO	N/A	
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?	X			*Our yearly downtown Cumberland Farmers Market takes place on Baltimore Street each Thursday May - October. A second Farmer's Market takes place at Canal Place on Saturdays June - October. There are a number of local farms with booths at these markets selling organic produce, flowers and plants, honey, dog treats, meats, and other natural products.*
7. Has there been a decrease in crime rate?	X			*Overall part 1 crime rate per capita has decreased 14% since 2017. This decrease has been in line with the state average of overall crime decrease. Although there is a noted decrease the City of Cumberland routinely ranks having 5th to 7th highest crime rate per capita in the state. (2020 statistics have Cumberland ranked 5th) Although, overall crime has decreased, crime has increased in several categories such as violent crime, assault, aggravated assault, robbery and murder.* *In addition to crime, overdoses and overdose deaths have increased exactly doubling in 2020 over 2019. Further, our drug arrest rate has remained high but consistent with our overall drug seizures increasing dramatically.*
8. Do all residents have access to the Internet and other basic utilities and services?	X			*All residents within the area have access to broadband and other basic utilities; however, the COVID 19 pandemic revealed disparities that exist within the community as interviews revealed that more than 4,000 students did not have access to broadband or a computer due to high cost of access. Allegany County Board of Education and city agencies worked together to provide Wi-Fi hotspots in public areas such as parking lots of schools, fire stations, libraries and other facilities. Through a CDBG-CV grant, South Cumberland library provided Wi-Fi hotspots and Chromebook laptops for borrowing.*
OTHER:				
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?**

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

1. Have there been any infill developments?	X			*There have been several infill developments in the last 5 years. There have been 6 new residential constructions and 5 new commercial constructions.*
2. Has there been an increase in the amount of preserved/protected land?		X		*With a focus on demolition of blighted properties, the City and Cumberland Economic Development Corporation have been working to utilize and redevelop these parcels.*
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.	X			*The city has been working with the Cumberland Economic Development Corporation (CEDC) to acquire and demolish a blighted neighborhood for redevelopment and revitalization because the investment cost to acquire so many blighted parcels is too great to justify a profitable return on investment. Redevelopment costs within the city—relative to the cost of suburban greenfield development-- provide a significant constraint to new development and adaptive reuse within the city.*
4. Have there been any zoning or policy changes that have fostered growth or redevelopment in your Sustainable Community?		X		*There have not been any policy changes since those adopted/recognized in the last application period.*
5. Have there been any significant improvements to the municipal infrastructure within the Sustainable Community (i.e., street lighting, water/sewer lines)?	X			*Water Valve/Line Replacements:* *Streetscape:* *-South Street* *-Baltimore Street* *-Fayette Street* *-Decatur Street*

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?	X			*A new employee was hired in 2020 to be the primary staff member to receive and review applications for Zoning Amendments, Conditional Use/Variance Petitions, Site Plan Reviews, and Subdivision/Lot Line Adjustments.* *GOCCP grant funded Safe Streets/MCIN Coordinator, Opioid Crime Coordinator, Crime Analyst, Drug Crime Prosecutor. All are funded by the GOCCP Safe Streets grant and are employed to concentrate on gathering intelligence and coordinating drug enforcement efforts throughout the City of Cumberland.* *CPD has contracted Little Dog social media to better enhance our social media capabilities to improve community policing and crime tip management.* *2021 CPD hired 3 police officers.* *Professional development programs. The Cumberland Police Department has recently implemented an on-line internet training platform which allows us to more efficiently train officers in a variety of hot topics across our 24-hour operations.*
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?			X	*The Passages of the Western Potomac Heritage Area (PWPHA), formerly the Canal Place Heritage Area updated their 5-year management plan with MHAA benchmarks. The City of Cumberland CDBG 2020-2024 5 Year Plan explored each neighborhood within the jurisdiction including the Downtown/Center City area – which was considered a priority funding area for revitalization efforts.* *Several plans were adopted in 2020 which studied housing and economic development in Cumberland. Most of these planning efforts incorporated data and surveys conducted during this time and incorporated them into coordinated planning strategies. The Sustainable Communities map includes nearly all of Cumberland's municipal city limits. These plans are referenced throughout this document.*
OTHER:				

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): ● **2002** ● **2015 Upper Story Redevelopment** ● **2016 Community Legacy grant (00152)** ● **2016 Upper Story Redevelopment** ● **2016 Leasehold Improvements** ● **2017 Comm Prop Façade Improvement** ● **2017 Upper Story Redevelopment** ● **2018 Cumberland Theatre Rehabilitation** ● **2018 Leasehold Imp.** ● **2019 Allegany Museum Interior Rstrtn.** ● **2019 CDB Accessibility Improvement** ● **2020 YMCA Dehumidification**	DHCD State Private/Local State State State State State State State State State	$46,061.68 $50,00.00 $50,00.00 $100,000.00 $100,000.00 $50,000.00 $25,000.00 $50,000.00 $75,000.00 $50,000.00 $50,000.00 $150,000.00		ADA Improvements at 218 Washington St. 169-170 Centre St. 2 properties 7 properties 23 N. Centre St Parklet 12 properties Critical improvements 5 new businesses Panels at ballroom Canal Place Shops & Train Station YMCA Dehumid. Sys.
Strategic Demolition Fund (SDF): ● **Maryland Avenue Project** ● **Cumberland Roof Replacement 2021** ● **Main Street Sprinkler Tap Installation (Balt Street Redesign) 2021**	DHCD	$250,000 $50,000 $250,000		(pending) (May award, pending)
Community Safety & Enhancement Program:	MDOT			

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
Maryland Bikeways Program:	MDOT			
Sidewalk Retrofit Program:	MDOT			
Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund:	MDE	loan / forgiveness $4,575,000 / $1,500,000		CSO 78" Pipeline
Other Funding Programs: *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.* *Please add more rows if necessary				
Community Development Block Grant – 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 (Parks & Recreation)	Federal	$221,009 $49,720 $88,000 $20,600 $92,000 $77,000		Cavanaugh Field Concession/Restroom Building Renovations Cavanaugh Ball Field Lighting Constitution Park Splash Pad

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
				South Penn School Playground Constitution Park Inclusive Swing Set Playground Area YMCA Gilchrist Transitional Housing Shelter Playground/Greenspace
Community Development Block Grant-2017-2021 (City Sidewalks)	Federal	$143,006.90 $103,375.95 $187,412 $635,421		Cumberland Street Retaining Wall, Bellevue Sidewalk upgrades/ADA improvements, Amtrak/Mechanic Street Project ADA Improvements, Baltimore Street Redesign streetscape utility & infrastructure
Community Development Block Grant- 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021 (Transitional Housing Shelter)	Federal	$341,631		Facility rehabilitation-women SRO's, Men's unit HVAC, Family unit renovations, security/sanitization upgrades, play area
Community Development Block Grant-2019, 2021	Federal	$500,745		YMCA Community Center roof, fence, interior accessibility improvements, dehumidification system
Community Development Block Grant-2017-2021	Federal	$352,632		Infrastructure improvements to increase accessibility at River Bend Court and Jane Frazier subsidized housing developments

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

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 Development Block Grant-2017-2021 (Facility Upgrades for Accessibility/ Special Populations)	Federal	$207,854		Friend's Aware group home improvements, transportation, and facility rehabilitation, Allegany College of Maryland WEX program Loft Lift project, and Archway Station mental health home creation
Community Development Block Grant-2020, 2021	Federal	$8,877		Targeted foot and bike police patrols for downtown and other areas within Sustainable Communities area
Maryland Community Parks and Playgrounds-2018, 2019,2020, 2021	State	$179,000 $120,000 $149,000 $98,000		Constitution Park Marbles Courts, Allegany College of Maryland Softball Field, Housing Authority of the City of Cumberland Playground, Allegany College of Maryland Volleyball Courts
Community Trust Foundation	Private	$5,000		Constitution Park Soundgarden
2020 Census Grant	Maryland Historic Trust	$8,000		2020 Census Outreach
Bay Restoration Fund	MDE	$20,097,656 (FY19) $11,285,450 (FY20)		CSO 78" Pipeline

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
		$14,954,974 (FY21) $4,180,479		ECPS Phase 3 CSO
Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Funds	MDE	$188,000		Flood Control
Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund: **Drinking Water Grant:** **Area Development Grant:**	MDE MDE ARC	loan / forgiveness $462,837 / $154,279 $851,826 / $283,942 $1,385,337 / $271,779 $703,000 $300,000		Decatur St Crosstown Water Main Replacement
Energy Water Infrastructure Program Grant	MDE	$1,000,000		Aeration Blowers @ Water Reclamation Facility
Urban & Community Forestry Grant	DNR	$768		
Safe Streets Program & MCIN-MD Criminal Intelligence Network (formerly known as Safe Streets	State	2017-$220,753.75 2018-$220,000		Salaries, equipment and overtime

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
		2019-$286,404 2020-$284,206 2021-$256,206		
Heroin Coordinator	State	2017-$84,180 2018-$65,843 2019-$56,066		Coordinator salary, equipment and software
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant for Drug Enforcement	Federal	$59,820		Overtime for drug enforcement investigations
High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)	Federal Pass through	$16,435		Drug enforcement overtime and covert vehicle reimbursement
MD Department of Health, Opioid Interdiction (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021)	Local	$40,000		Overtime to conduct drug interdiction
MD Department of Health Opioid Misuse Prevention (2019, 2020, 2021)	Local	$9,000		Medication pickup/take back program
MD Department of Health Overdose Data to Action (2021)	Local	$3,500		Drug overdose follow-up visits

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
US Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing Services (2018)	Federal	$375,000		75% salary for 3 officers for 3 years
Gun Violence Reduction 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021	State	$20,973		Gun related investigations and special gun interdiction patrols
Community Policing Grant 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021	State	$52,520		Perform community foot and bike patrols and attend special events
School Bus Safety 2017, 2018, 2020	State	$32,930		Monitor school bus routes and traffic safety
School Resource Officer 2020, 2021	State	$98,050		Provide adequate officer coverage
MD Highway Safety Office Traffic Safety 2017-2021	State	$13,950		Perform occupant protection and impaired driving patrols
MD Highway Safety Office Pedestrian Safety 2020	Federal pass through	$2,000		Perform pedestrian safety checkpoints

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
Police Recruitment and Retention 2020, 2021	State	$48,000		Recruitment videos/signs and bonus for graduation, veterans, referrals
Department of Natural Resources Program Open Space 2018, 2019	Federal	$150,000		Constitution Park –Long Field Improvements
CLG Educational Set Aside Continuing Education grants- 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021	Federal Pass-Through	$10,800		Historic Preservation Commission and staff training
CLG- Maryland Historical Trust, 2017 **CLG-Economic Impacts of Historic Preservation, 2020** **CLG-Maryland Historical Trust, 2017** **CLG-Maryland Historical Trust, 2017** **CLG-MD Inventory of Historical Properties, 2018**	Federal Pass-Through	$17,000 $23,846 $17,304 $15,905 $17,000		Cumberland Survey Project, economic benefits study, Historic Context and Preservation Guidelines, production of individual MD inventory forms and district survey forms
Community Enhancement Prgm 2021 ● 600 Block Maryland Ave. Demo	Private/Local	$145,850.00		

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

Yes, land acquisition financial assistance. There are parcels within the city that have potential for development but are too costly for private sector investment (largely due to topographical issues). It would be advantageous for grants that allow property acquisition. This would provide the opportunity for the city or a non-profit (CEDC) to then leverage public dollars to help offset development costs, making these parcels more palatable for private sector investment.

Grants that create market-rate housing, or that are not tied to income-based housing. The city has a demand for market-rate housing but, unfortunately, we cannot compete with neighboring markets in terms of ROI. Grants that help offset costs or incentivize market-rate housing would be very beneficial in stabilizing our housing market, thus lessening the need for such incentives.

1. The City of Cumberland has been wanting to implement a **body camera** project for some time. It is well known that body camera use for police promotes community trust and transparency as well as improves police services. The Cumberland Police Department has met with the local NAACP and have discussed this issue and created a partnership where they would help sponsor the program. Currently our department is researching funding and the type of system to purchase.

2. It has been well established that the video **surveillance system** in public areas is a deterrent against crime as well as being an excellent investigative tool when crimes do occur, the City of Cumberland has attempted to implement a variety of video surveillance systems throughout the city at various times throughout the years. Although technology has greatly advanced the infrastructure to operate a reliable city owned surveillance system does not exist. Practically all of the cameras installed over the years have failed and those that do operate are on a variety of dated platforms and cannot be viewed at a central location.

The Cumberland Police Department would like to partner with the entire city to establish a reliable surveillance system at strategic points throughout the city such as the downtown area. These cameras would then be fed into a central desk where they can be watched live by a civilian employee who can direct public safety responses to problems in those areas.

3. Although **mental health and substance abuse** is not directly the responsibility of law enforcement, our department is aware that in our jurisdiction close to all of our crime is attributed to these two factors. As police officers we do our due diligence and arrest those responsible for the crime but if their motivation is connected to mental health and substance abuse, arrest does not solve the problem. The subject continues to cause problems and place the community at risk.

In order to help with this situation, the Cumberland Police Department would like to sponsor a project to do what we can to support the treatment of mental health and substance abuse in our community. While researching this project I met with several partners throughout the community to evaluate what their needs are and how we can help. After consideration, we would like to make recommendations to attack the problem by helping to improve services on three (3) levels: *1) field or street services, 2) patient or facility services, 3) post arrest or conviction services.*

FIELD SERVICES

This portion of the project would entail establishing a fund that would be used for our various partners to provide civilian mental health and substance abuse counseling, as needed, in support of our different programs. The goal would be to have as close to real-time 24/7-hour coverage in the field as possible. If funded, CPD hopes to expand beyond our existing CIT and DART programs to provide field mental health services in other situations as well.

- **FIELD SUBSTANCE ABUSE ASSISTANCE**

In order to achieve this the CPD would like to partner with the Maryland Area Health Education Center, West (AHEC) who already has several projects in place to support substance abuse such as their *"Street Teams."* AHEC has been a partner of CPD for many years and we are currently working with them to offer peer support as part of our DART project.

All law enforcement and drug counselors agree that getting an addict in the door for treatment is the hardest first step. This is one reason CPD has the policy of requiring involuntary psychiatric evaluations on all near fatal overdose patients we encounter. By making them go to the hospital they get an initial introduction to the treatment services offered in the area and hopefully head down the right path.

However, this only applies to near fatal overdose cases. There are many other cases that slip through the cracks. Police regularly encounter people under the influence or involved in theft and similar crimes in order to support their drug habit. Police are also occasionally contacted by the friends and family members of addicts seeking help for their loved ones.

It is our current policy to refer these people to the many area services. We have found though that this demographic of people does not trust or want to take advice from the police and rarely follow through. Research has shown that one of the most effective ways to talk a person into starting treatment is through the advice of a peer counselor. These peer counselors are former addicts themselves who have received specialized training in addictions counseling and want to help. People who deal with this demographic also know that it is important to start the process as soon as they agree to get help anytime of the day or night. Those suffering from addictions are not likely to keep next day appointments or make future plans. That is why timely 24/7 service is important.

As part of this project CPD would like to offer funding to help support additional addictions peer counselors with AHEC. By funding at least one (1) additional position AHEC feels that they can partner with similar agencies that offer peer counselors and create a "task force" of peer counselors who would be available on a 24/7 schedule via hotline.

Once this is in place anytime an officer would encounter someone in need, they would have the option of calling the hotline and a peer counselor would respond street side anytime to offer services and hopefully get the patient started on treatment.

Another issue identified during project planning is transportation. Once a person accepts services they may need to be transported to a variety of facilities, many of which are out of the area. Lack of transportation throughout my conversations with our partners was a common theme. In order to address this CPD would like to establish a fund to pay a private transportation company to provide transportation for our various partners as needed, 24 hours a day. The particular company who would be willing to provide this service is yet to be determined.

FIELD MENTAL HEALTH ASSISTANCE

During 2018, CPD started our Crisis Intervention Team (C.I.T) program. This project consisted of partnering with the UPMC behavioral health unit. Counselors from UPMC and all City Police Officers received specialized training in dealing with mental health crises. After training, a program was put in place that allowed for the response of a crisis counselor from the hospital to meet officers on the scene of mental health calls in order to assist and evaluate the patients. The hospital staff would then help come up with a safety plan or assist with hospital intake if necessary.

This program was just in its infancy when the pandemic emerged. During the pandemic, understandably so, the hospital was not allowing their staff to go out into the field and do field visits. Even prior to the pandemic there was a shortage of certified hospital counselors who were available to go into the field which did not allow for 24/7 coverage.

While researching this project we again talked to UPMC who advised that they still have insufficient staff to support such a program properly. UPMC cited a shortage of certified mental health counselors nation-wide. The few that exist are in such demand that they often take the higher paying clinical jobs in contrast to field work.

At the time of this application, we are still trying to find sufficient personnel to support this program. We would like to keep the option of funding field mental health counselors open for the future.

PATIENT SERVICES

While researching ways in which ARPA funds can help the community I made contact with UPMC Behavioral Health as well as the Allegany County Health Department and discussed some of their needs. Behavioral Health supervisors explained that as part of their program after police bring someone to the ER after an overdose, they offer them services and if they accept, current funding streams allow for up to a 4-day stay in their Opioid Crisis Unit. This also allows for all related counseling and maintenance medications associated with the addiction. The UPMC Staff advised that if successful, the patient is then moved to in-patient long-term care for rehabilitation services.

Although this seems to be a good system, the UPMC staff identified a problem. Between the initial 4-day Opioid Crisis Unit stay and finding and approving long-term rehabilitation services there is usually a gap of 3 to 5 days where the patient is discharged and must await a bed. During this gap the patient does not have in-patient addiction services and often relapses and does not show up for long-term in-patient care.

In order to address this UPMC can make arrangements for any patient awaiting long-term bed placement to stay in their *"Hope and Healing"* facility. This is an off-campus home that is managed by UPMC and provides residents with short-term counseling and mental health services. This house has a UPMC staff on-site that will allow for contact and supervision of the patients.

The Allegany County Health Department cited a similar situation where after a person agrees to receive help, they do their best to find them long-term addictions placement in a facility. Finding an available bed and working out financing often takes several days to a week. They try to find

temporary placement in a halfway house or similar health facility; however, there is no funding to help with placement so the patient is sent back into the community. Of course, this adds to the patient's grief and the chances of them following through with the care plan diminishes.

In order to assist with this problem CPD would like to establish funding to help with gaps in patient care while they are awaiting long-term placement in an addiction facility.

POST CONVICTION SERVICES

Another aspect of this project would come into play after a person is arrested and is believed to be suffering from an uncontrolled or re-occurring mental health condition. CPD officers are familiar with multiple people in our community who have mental health disorders, often dealing with the same individuals over the course of their careers. Officers usually have contact with them after they are accused of petty crime or disorderly actions in public. These people are arrested time and time again but it does not solve any problems.

In order to address this, District Court for Allegany County is starting to research establishing a mental health court modeled after the successful drug court programs that are in place throughout the State, including in Allegany County. The State of Maryland has mental health courts functioning in other counties and already has an approved protocol for its use. If a person is believed to have committed a crime as a result of a mental illness and meets certain criteria a judge will order them to participate in a mental health evaluation. After evaluation a judge will order that person to participate in particular mental health treatments in lieu of incarceration. The key to the success of this program is extensive monitoring of the defendant to ensure they are going to ordered treatment, following curfews, and whatever else the judge orders.

After researching implementing this project in Allegany County it was discovered that the bulk of this funding is expected to be provided through other services. After discussion there are two (2) gaps in the program that need to be addressed. One is prosecutorial services; these cases are very time- consuming and will take the effort of a dedicated prosecutor. CPD would like to help supplement the salary of a prosecutor for these services. The second deficiency is associated with the responsibilities of conducting home checks and surveillance of these defendants once they are in the community. With the existing drug court program, it is law enforcement's responsibility to do home checks to ensure that defendants are home and following the conditions of their release. The same would hold true for mental health courts. Law enforcement would be responsible for going to the homes of defendants and ensuring they are following the conditions of their release as well. With mental health court; however, the practice is to have a mental health professional accompany the officers during home visits as well. A "mental health court" helps clients get to appointments and maintain medication schedules, all which are paramount to a successful program.

Sustainable Community Action Plan

Name of Sustainable Community

The City of Cumberland

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

Example Section	
Strengths	**Weaknesses**
• Insert bulleted list of strengths (provide some detail as to why and how this is a strength in your community)	• Insert bulleted list of weaknesses (provide some detail as to why and how this is a weakness in your community)

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures Outcomes should be considered end results of actions and strategies. Based on the strengths and weaknesses, identify the strengths on which you would like to build and the challenges you would like to address. Progress Measure: What will you use to measure success toward outcome? Is it quantifiable or qualifiable?	Strategies and Action Items Identify strategies that will help your community to achieve each identified outcome to the left. If applicable, break down each strategy into specific action items that outline different steps of the strategy. Specify how you are planning to achieve the desired outcomes.	Implementation Partners Which community stakeholders need to be involved to realize each action step and strategy? Name specific public and/or private sector partners.
Example Outcome 1: Code violations and complaints are reduced in the Sustainable Community residential areas. Example Progress Measures: Code violations reduced by 25% in Sustainable Community residential areas	Example Strategy A: Review and revise, as needed, code compliance program to reduce frequency and number of residential code violations. Example Action 1: Complete analysis of code violations over the past five years to determine areas, both geographically and topically, for which code violations are most frequent. Example Action 2: Conduct outreach programs to determine barriers to code compliance. Example Action 3: Analyze code compliance program for potential inefficiencies and opportunities for proactive engagement. Example Action 4: Pursue façade improvement funding to assist low-income homeowners overcome barriers to code compliance.	Maryland Department of Planning, Maryland Department of Housing, County Planning Department, local homeowners' association

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

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

<table>
<tr>
<td colspan="2">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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<th>Strengths</th>
<th>Weaknesses</th>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>

Cumberland is an older city surrounded by mountains with heavily forested slopes, providing a scenic background for residents and visitors.
The drinking water that serves the City of Cumberland and much of Allegany County, Maryland, is surface water originating from the Lake Koon and Lake Gordon reservoirs located in the Cumberland Valley Township, Bedford County, Pennsylvania. The primary tributaries supplying water to the reservoirs are Evitts Creek, Growden Run, Oster Run as well as several unnamed tributaries. The Evitts Creek Water Company (under the direction of the City of Cumberland) provides water treatment.
The City of Cumberland has a Drought Contingency Plan that outlines the implementation of conservation measures for a drought situation. Annual Water Quality Reports sent to all water customers display a water conservation message and a link to www.epa.gov/watersense for family friendly water conservation tips.
Water quality in Cumberland (zip 21502), Maryland is 73 on a scale to 100 (higher is better). The US average is 55. Note that this is a measure of Watershed quality, not the water that comes from your faucet. The EPA has stated that a healthy watershed is closely related to drinking water quality. The EPA has a complex method of measuring watershed quality using 15 indicators such as pH, chemicals, metals, and bacteria. https://www.bestplaces.net/docs/datasource.aspx
Cumberland encompasses parts of three 8-digit watersheds within the Upper Potomac River Basin; Evitts Creek, Wills Creek, and the Potomac River Lower North Branch watersheds. Total Daily Maximum Loads (TMDL) exists for two of the watersheds; Evitts Creek – Sediment and Wills Creek – sediment, fecal bacteria and low pH. Water Quality Analysis has been or is in the process of being completed for various impairments for each watershed.

</td>
<td>

The natural resources in and around the City of Cumberland are vibrant and abundant, creating a sense that there are ample natural areas and minimal environmental risks. An appreciation for balance of human and environment is required to move forward utilizing and maintaining natural resources. For example, the view from nearly every property in Cumberland is that of trees and forests due to the mountains surrounding the urban area, yet the tree canopy in 2008 was only 27% in the urban areas.

A trend experienced for several years now is that as older declining trees are removed, they are not typically replaced. Trees in the urban area are often not viewed as the asset that they are providing shade, sunscreen, air/water filters, but more as a nuisance requiring care, clean-up and being obstructions.
The tree canopy analysis conducted in 2008 could be used to compare data now being collected Chesapeake Bay Watershed wide, by the Chesapeake Conservancy. The Conservancy has data for tree cover for years 2013/14, 2017/18 and again in 2021/22. This data can be utilized by appropriate staff or consultants to measure the comparisons of the Urban Tree Canopy in Cumberland compared to 2008. These measurements can provide staff with an idea what direction the city's tree cover is heading; leading to further goal planning and programs.
In general water quality is good and/or improving due to the abundance of forested areas surrounding the local watersheds and various combined sewer infrastructure improvements and sewer maintenance efforts.

Sewer improvement projects are costly and the focus is on projects related to the City's Long Term Control Plan under the Consent Decree and Judgment #01-C-00-18342L. This Consent Decree is set to expire in

</td>
</tr>
</table>

- All redevelopment projects are required to undergo stormwater management following the Stormwater Management Act of 2007.

- All stormwater runoff enters the combined sewer system and is either treated at the wastewater treatment plant or overflows to creeks or the Potomac River. As a result of the combined sewage overflows (CSO) the City was issued a Consent Decree and Judgment in 2001. The CSO consent decree required the City to comply with the US EPA CSO Control Policy. A Long-Term Control Plan was developed, which outlines a plan of action to improve infrastructure to a point at which the city would be compliant. Limitations were imposed on the amount of new sewer connections. The city is allowed up to 23,000 gallons per day in new sewer connections a year. Sewer connections greater than 23,000 gallons per day in a given year require prior approval by MDE. By completing the list of improvements within Plan the City expects to collect and transfer the majority of stormwater falling onto the urban environment to the Wastewater Treatment Plant for Enhanced Nutrient Removal technology.
- Air quality in Cumberland (zip 21502), Maryland is 66 on a scale to 100 (higher is better). The US average is 58. This is based on new measures of hazardous air pollutants from the EPA, called the National Air Toxics Assessment. This analysis models respiratory illness and cancer risk down to the zip code level, providing better detail and insight than the previous analysis based solely on results from air monitoring stations.
https://www.bestplaces.net/docs/datasource.aspx

- The urban tree canopy is a vital City asset that helps reduce stormwater runoff, improve air quality, reduce the City's carbon footprint, enhance the quality of life, contribute to savings on energy bills, and serves as habitat for wildlife. It is important to continue to monitor the tree canopy and work to maintain and or increase the urban tree canopy for reasons listed above.

  A tree canopy analysis completed in 2008 revealed that Cumberland's urban tree canopy ranked above average in Maryland in comparison to cities of similar size. The tree canopy covers 3107 acres, or 49% of the land within the city. Cumberland has several contiguous forested areas (more than 20 acres in size). The large forested patches contain 60% of the City's tree canopy. The more

October 2023. The City and portions of Allegany County that discharge to the John J. DiFonzo Water Reclamation Facility are currently seeking an extension of the Consent Decree to further develop the City's Long Term Control Plan to continue to address combined sewer overflows to the Potomac River and Wills Creek.

Having a combined sewer system, there is the opportunity for trash and debris to enter the pipes. Keeping the system clean, well maintained and the community aware of the combined system is important moving forward.
- The City's infrastructure is aging and there is always a need to increase reliability of utility systems and for the City to function in an organized manner in order to fund and accomplish capital improvements that are beneficial to the community long term. At the same time, the city will be experiencing a generation of staff turn-over causing a lack of seasoned personnel
- Lack of pollinator habitat
- Lack of EV charging infrastructure
- Lack of and need for consideration of green infrastructure improvements

urbanized areas are 27% covered by tree canopy.

- Curbside recycling was implemented in the City of Cumberland on July 1, 2014. This program opened up the opportunity for all residences and businesses to recycle without having to tote their commodities. Curbside recycling is collected in dual stream: Commingled Containers & Mixed Paper on a weekly schedule.

  The County's source separated recycling is available to City residents. Items such as large bundles of cardboard, scrap metals and electronics can be taken to the Penn Mar recycling facility as part of this program.

- Additionally, the city participates on the Solid Waste Management Board where planning for special recycling events takes place (i.e., electronics, household hazardous waste, and tire recycling events).

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: Accomplish the projects within City of Cumberland's Long Term Control Plan in order to achieve an 85% reduction of total combined sewer overflow volume. Progress Measures: Collect and carry excess combined sewage to the Wastewater Treatment Plant and from Howard Street/Mill Race to the Water Reclamation Facility	Strategy A: Complete the construction of a 78" pipeline that will convey wastewater from the Mill Race pump station (at Canal Place) to the newly operational 5-million-gallon CSO Storage Facility. The 78" pipeline will have the ability to store 3 million gallons of combined sewage; further reducing CDO's in the City of Cumberland	City of Cumberland Maryland Department of Environment
Outcome 2: Accomplish additional projects within City of Cumberland's Long Term Control Plan Progress Measures: Collect and carry excess combined sewage to the Wastewater Treatment Plant and from the Evitts Creek Pump Station (ECPS)	Strategy A: Complete the rehabilitation of the ECPS Gravity Sewer Phase III (Under the CSX Rail Yard) Strategy B: Complete the study for rehabilitation of the ECPS Gravity Sewer Phase IV (upstream of the pump station) Strategy C: Complete the design and construction of rehabilitation of the ECPS Gravity Sewer Phase IV	City of Cumberland Maryland Department of Environment

Outcome	Strategy	Partners
Outcome 3: Determine future CSO improvement needs Progress Measures: Implement studies on the needs for future sewer projects related to the combined sewer system.	Strategy A: Follow-up study to determine future sewer system improvements Strategy B: CSO Water Quality Analysis (baseline stream monitoring)	City of Cumberland Maryland Department of Environment
Outcome 4: Educate the public on neighborhood scale urban watersheds (and sewer-sheds) Progress Measures: Conduct educational outreach programs for urban watersheds.	Strategy A: Identify & leverage funding resources to carry out watershed assessments & public outreach Strategy B: Work with educational institutions to identify acceptable watershed assessment tools and activities Strategy C: Attend and participate in community environmental outreach programs	City of Cumberland
Outcome 5: Install energy savings & risk management reduction improvements within major utility facilities. Progress Measures: Incorporate energy savings & risk management reduction within capital improvements plan for major utility facilities.	Strategy A: Evaluate the opportunity of installing alternative energy generating capture technology infrastructure within the water reclamation facility.	City of Cumberland Maryland Energy Administration Maryland Department of the Environment
Outcome 6: Increase the tree canopy by 5-10% within urbanized areas with an emphasis on replanting native species Progress Measures: Revise and adopt plans and strategies that will encourage tree planting and preservation	Strategy A: Amend ordinances to include guidelines for tree planting and promote functional uses of trees within large scale projects Strategy B: Free Native Species seedling giveaway at Arbor Day ceremony and Heritage Day event Strategy C: Education public on planting, "The right tree right place," to reduce problems with tree canopies and roots and avoid more tree removals	City of Cumberland Shae Tree Commission MD DNR Forest Service
Outcome 7: Develop programs that facilitate residential tree planting Progress Measures: Tree planting and care activities at neighborhood levels	Strategy A: Conduct tree planting activities on a neighborhood level Strategy B: Familiarize community members on tree care and pruning Strategy C: Support and promote local Conservation agencies community tree and garden programs and opportunities Strategy D: Free seedling giveaway at Arbor Day ceremony and Heritage Day event.	City of Cumberland Shade Tree Commission MD DNR Forest Service Arbor Day Foundation Allegany College of MD
Outcome 8: Enhance and support green infrastructure development as a way to advance environmental and economic benefits toward a low-carbon economy Progress Measures: Tree planting and care activities at neighborhood levels	Strategy A: Conduct tree planting activities on a neighborhood level Strategy B: Replacing the smaller trees with 48 larger canopy London Plane trees on the Baltimore Street project. Larger trees reduce more carbon.	City of Cumberland Shade Tree Commission MD DNR Forest Service Arbor Day Foundation
Outcome 9: Create and enhance pollinator habitat on public lands while conducting outreach to encourage increased habitat on private lands Progress Measures: Become a designated Bee City USA	Strategy A: Establish a standing Bee City USA committee to advocate for pollinators Strategy B: Create and enhance pollinator habitat by increasing the abundance of native plants and creating nesting sites Strategy C: Reduce the use of pesticides and herbicides Strategy D: No mow May program	City of Cumberland Allegheny Mountain Bee Keepers Association Let's Beautify Cumberland Master Gardeners Cumberland Flower Club

		Local schools, colleges & scout troops
Outcome 10: Support increasing electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure Progress Measure: Expand public EV charging stations in City-owned parking structures	Strategy A: Support the installation of additional charging stations by the utility company Strategy B: Support planning and locating EV charging stations within local streetscape design projects	City of Cumberland Maryland Energy Administration Potomac Edison
Outcome 11: Continue coordination among Trail Town Program and Mountain Maryland Trails with trailside communities along the Great ALLEGHENY Passage.	Strategy 1: Revamp Trail Ambassador program Strategy 2: Continue to provide events Strategy 3: Continue to support trail improvements	City of Cumberland Trail Town Programs Mountain Maryland Trails

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.

Strengths	Weaknesses
- Available Incentive programs - Collaboration among community partners especially in workforce development - Affordable commercial real estate prices for purchase and /or lease - Accessible from highway, rail, trail, and river - Decrease in commercial vacancy rates - Growing Arts and Entertainment District - Abundance of Historic Structures - Streamlined municipal permit process - Regional Hub for economic and commercial activity for tri-state area (Allegany and Garrett Counties, MD, Mineral Co, WV, Somerset Co, PA)	- Demographics for Business Attraction - Topography - Lack of trained workforce, including essential/soft skills - Negative attitude among members of the community - Decline in population - Lack of North/South Corridor\ - Lack of developable land - Lack of young families moving to the area reducing the experienced labor force - Vacant storefronts in the central business district

- Nearby Higher Education institutions: Allegany College of Maryland and Frostburg State University
- UPMC Western Maryland Hospital location
- Below Average Cost of living
- Competitively educated labor force in white collar occupations
- Great Allegheny Passage (GAP) Trail – Allegany County benefited from $32.1 million in annual economic impacts from GAP tourism in 2019. In 2020, Allegany County welcomed 184,372 visitors to its sections of the trail, a 52% increase from 2019. 2021 numbers are expected to be even higher.
- Growing number of people working from home due to pandemic and moving to the area for cheaper real estate, less traffic and outdoor opportunities
- Proximity to major municipalities – Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Washington, DC, Northern Virginia
- Substantial investment for a revitalization project of the central business district
- Recent investments from local developers and outside developers for new businesses

- Low household median income compared to the region; high poverty rate
- Drug addiction epidemic has been prevalent
- Unwillingness by many to do things differently, think outside the box
- Lack of diversity among business owners
- Poor infrastructure to support video surveillance
- Insufficient manpower to provide adequate police services

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: Redevelop the Downtown District Progress Measures: amount of private sector investment, new business creation, jobs created, number of vacancies downtown, number of residential units added, number of new businesses added, downtown area crime statistics, public crime perceptions, number of displays per year in vacant storefront windows number of rent grants provided to new start -up businesses per year	Strategy A: Focus on downtown revitalization planning capitalizing on the Baltimore Street redevelopment project Strategy B: Explore additional linkages to the Central Business District and the ability to improve crucial gateways Strategy D: Promote and incentivize upper story development of market rate residential units Strategy E: Successfully develop the property of 118 Baltimore Street, re-establishing it as an anchor of downtown Commerce. Strategy F: Seek grant funding opportunities for infrastructure improvements: water capacity, sprinkler systems, fiber cable Strategy G: Provide physical connections and enhancements between the Downtown and the Canal Place Heritage Area Strategy H: Encourage new business growth Strategy I: Enhance downtown area police enforcement; video surveillance, increase overt CPD patrols, increase covert efforts focusing on drug and vice crimes, measure public perception of crime downtown	Business leaders, Allegany College of Maryland, Frostburg State University, City of Cumberland, CEDC, DDC, SHA, ARC, CPPDA, downtown property owners, Cumberland Police Department, State of Maryland

	Strategy J: Increase investment in the central business district; marketing efforts, create available properties database, encourage business start-ups with incentives, provide pop-up retail sites in vacant properties, increase vacant property seasonal displays	
Outcome 2: Continue to grow under the Main Street Approach Progress Measures: Submit monthly reports to DHCD	Strategy A: Meet regularly with the four committees of the Main Street Program and downtown property and business owners Strategy B: Attend Quarterly Main Street Maryland Meetings	DDC, Main Street Maryland, City of Cumberland, CEDC
Outcome 3: Enhance the City's economic development toolbox: investment and growth Progress Measures: Amount of investment generated, increase in taxable base, number of workshops sponsored per year, number of projects completed (using incentives), number of successful reuse sites, number of jobs created, completed strategic plans, business retention statistics, business recruitment statistics, number of new commercial businesses, number of new industrial businesses, number of façade grants completed	Strategy A: Utilize targeted incentives and overlay districts to encourage investment into targeted corridors Strategy B: Engage community stakeholders in planning efforts in targeted corridors Strategy C: Develop incentives targeted toward specific opportunity sites Strategy D: Plan and fund incentive programs for building rehabilitation Strategy E: Plan and fund incentive programs to develop small businesses Strategy F: Attract businesses to reuse existing facilities using creative permitting, parking ideas, employee shuttles, public transportation route enhancement, and incentives Strategy G: Partner with institutions of higher education to create jobs: expand industry roundtables, determine workforce needs, engage younger citizens Strategy H: Complete next 5-7 year economic development planning document Strategy I: Coordinate with public and private sector; increase engagement, create community ambassador program Strategy J: Pursue property acquisition and site pre-development for commercial and industrial business recruitment Strategy K: Provide façade grant opportunities	City of Cumberland, CEDC, Allegany County government, Regional Economic Development Partners, entrepreneurs, Allegany College of Maryland, Chamber of Commerce, private sector leaders, Frostburg State University, State of Maryland,
Outcome 4: Foster the growth of the technology sector and workforce development initiatives Progress Measure: Number of meetings per year, number of new tech businesses attracted	Strategy A: Foster the expansion of the IT center for Excellence, giving it actual space, and being a catalyst for startup businesses in the tech arena. Strategy B: Continue to support the development and growth of the P-TECH program Strategy C: Meet quarterly for planning and updates	Allegany College of Maryland, City of Cumberland, CEDC

Outcome 5: Downtown businesses will not see a tremendous drop in business during the Baltimore Street Construction Project <u>Progress Measures</u> Number of businesses remaining open throughout construction Number of businesses creating an online presence (social media, website, online sales)	Strategy A: Create a marketing plan to include social media, shopping promotions, advertising with radio/tv/print Strategy B: Create a mitigation plan for downtown businesses to help them navigate the construction period Strategy C: Focus on Shop Small year-round with a campaign (not just at holidays)	Cumberland Downtown Development Commission (DDC) Downtown Cumberland Business Association (DCBA) Allegany County Tourism Business Owners in the Central Business District Local and regional media entities

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
- Active community stakeholders that are exploring ways to address transportation barriers in the community through a Transportation Committee that has commissioned a transportation study - Health and human service organizations are working together to ensure community members have access to non-emergency medical appointments - The city has worked with the private sector to provide 2 electric vehicle charging stations. The success of the first station will be used to validate the need to increase accessibility to such facilities as the industry changes. - The city has worked to work with the 2008 Cumberland Trails and Bikeways Master Plan and the Bicycle Advisory Commission to make recommendations. The city already has connected points of interest with planned bike routes. - Every time a street improvement is made, the city provides bicycle and pedestrian improvements as they are able.	- Limited hours of operation (no evening or weekend transit) - Limited routes - No public transportation to many of the community's business parks/employment hubs - Public transportation does not operate in inclement weather. - Cumberland's infrastructure is aging with limited resources to repair it, particularly older, smaller streets - A large portion of the roadways lack space for bike lanes, and some post-1950 streets lack sidewalks - Geographical restraints can make some street and pedestrians improvements difficult, particularly when considering accessibility on steep pre-existing slopes - Pedestrian safety enforcement, awareness - Pedestrian and street signs and markings need to be improved

- The Great Allegheny Passage, a hiking/biking trail connecting Pittsburgh to Cumberland and to the C&O Canal Towpath through to Washington D.C., positions the city as a hub on a 334-mile interstate trail network.
- The City's Street improvement program has received more funding and attention in recent years and has allowed the city to improve more roadways and infrastructure
- The city considers accessibility as a priority in any street improvement project and has implemented significant ADA accessibility improvements within the city

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: Increase affordable, public transit options Progress Measures: Program operational and sustainable by 2027 Number of shorter bus routes or number of routes redesigned to accommodate connecting transit routes to land use	Strategy A: Establish bus routes through the County Transit Organization to provide additional buses and drivers to underserved areas using ARPA funding Strategy B: Explore the feasibility of the city providing this service on their own Strategy C: Improve bus routes to areas of residential concentrations Strategy D: Identify transit nodes near job centers	HRDC, Western Maryland Health System, Allegany County Health Department, Tri State Community Health Center, City of Cumberland Transportation Committee
Outcome 2: Improve public access from Rt. 51/Industrial Boulevard into Wineow Street Progress Measures: Solution is designed by end of 2027 constructed by the end of 2028	Strategy A: Redesign entrance to Footer Dye Workers/Canal Place property to be easier to accommodate pedestrians and vehicles coming from the northbound MD51 Strategy B: Redesign intersection to accommodate a traffic circle at MD-51, North Mechanic Street, Centre Street and Queen City Drive	MDOT, Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority (CCPDA), City of Cumberland
Outcome 3: Continue to explore options for parking strategies to better the perception and reality of parking in the Central Business District Progress Measures: Update parking brochure every six months	Strategy A: Work with elected officials, property and business owners to explore parking options Strategy B: Seek professional advice from consultants to make recommendations	City of Cumberland, City of Cumberland Police Department, DDC, CEDC, Chamber of Commerce
Outcome 4: Establish pedestrian improvements while abiding by current ADA standards Progress Measures: Develop a strategy to target sidewalk improvements based upon condition and role in neighborhood revitalization while developing and planning for "complete streets" where possible	Strategy A: Integrate crosswalks and sidewalk/curb ramps to the maximum extent possible in roadway improvements Strategy B: Make every effort to retrofit existing sidewalks to allow for radii at the curbs to be lowered to allow for ADA access Strategy C: Promote pedestrian travel as an alternate to the automobile and as a recreational activity for visitors and residents Strategy D: Continue initiative to create complete street model in downtown pedestrian mall, allowing improved access for vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists while including overall improvements to infrastructure	MDOT, Federal Highway Administration, CEDC, Appalachian Regional Commission City of Cumberland

Outcome 5: Continue to establish a bicycle transportation network that links neighborhoods, local and tourist destinations while providing recreational and transportation opportunities for residents and tourists Progress Measures: Complete all major bikeways outlined in 2008 Cumberland Trails and Bikeways Master Plan	Strategy A: Provide bicycle amenities so local residents and tourists are able to easily navigate comfortably and conveniently explore businesses and attractions Strategy B: Establish Cumberland as a welcoming place that provides safe recreation and alternative transportation, encourages bicycle use, and provides incentives for bicycle related events for local residents and tourists Strategy C: Create a safe environment for bicycle travel through increased enforcement of traffic laws and continued education and training of cyclists and motorists of safely sharing the road Strategy D: Establish designated bikeways or bicycle compatible roadways where feasible as part of street improvement projects Strategy E: When feasible, improve the compatibility of streets for bicycles by replacing any older drainage gates, providing wide curb lanes and smooth shoulders while removing roadside hazards	Maryland Department of Transportation, Bike Maryland, Bicycle Advisory Committee, City of Cumberland
Outcome 6: Continue to improve roadways on all arterial and collector streets Progress Measures: Maintain a pavement quality index of 7 or higher on arterial and collector streets	Strategy A: Continue to leverage funding sources to supplement and/or increase the funding available for road improvement projects Strategy B: Continue positive rapports with other local stakeholders who help improve roads, sidewalks, and other City infrastructure Strategy C: Update pavement management plan and incorporate it into asset management plan	Federal Highway Administration, MDOT, Columbia Gas of Maryland, City of Cumberland
Outcome 7: Modernize the City's Road system by updating traffic signage and lane markings, improving traffic signal system and street lighting system Progress Measures: Develop requirements for energy efficiency and quality standards to be followed when updating road system infrastructure	Strategy A: Continue to bring traffic signage, traffic controllers, and lane markings up to current FHWA standards Strategy B: Additional data collection and inventory of traffic signage Strategy C: Continue to develop a replacement schedule for systematic improvements approach to traffic signs and lane markings. Strategy D: Develop action plan by identifying and programming circulation priorities and problem traffic areas over the next five years	Federal Highway Administration, Maryland State Highway Administration, Potomac Edison, City of Cumberland
Outcome 8: Replace or Rehabilitate City Bridges rated at a 4.0 or worse Progress Measures: Repair three bridges by 2025	Strategy A: Repair bridges using Allegany County Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Funds from FHWA. Strategy B: Repair bridges by seeking supplemental funds from FHWA or unused funds from other Counties in the State	Federal Highway Administration, MDOT, Allegany County, City of Cumberland
Outcome 9: Increase Pedestrian safety Progress Measures: Reduction in pedestrian incidents Number of improvements to infrastructure	Strategy A: Increasing specialized patrols and initiatives focused on pedestrian safety Strategy B: Conduct a pedestrian crossing study and make recommendations on improving crosswalk markings, signs and flashing lights at crossings.	City of Cumberland
Outcome 10: Increase citizen awareness Progress Measures: Number of contacts, literature distributed	Strategy A: Conduct pedestrian checkpoints for pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers. Provide handouts and literature to increase awareness	City of Cumberland

Housing
This section focuses on the homes in which people in your community live or making 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 condition (interior or exterior); housing programs; aging in place; preventing foreclosures; and reducing residential vacancies.

Strengths	Weaknesses
- Historic structures - Low cost of real estate - Walkability of city neighborhoods - Diversity of type of housing stock	- Barriers to affordable housing - High numbers of blighted and/or abandoned properties - High numbers of substandard housing - Aging housing stock incurring costly updates and repairs - Residential foreclosure rate - Homeownership rates have declined - Lack of accessible affordable housing

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: Increase Quality of Housing Stock Progress Measures: Number of housing units rehabilitated, number of new housing units added, number of affordable units added, number of accessible units created	Strategy A: Identify potential non-profits willing to become CHDO's Strategy B: Identify/acquire funding to support community housing development Strategy C: Develop a functioning Community Housing Development Organization in Cumberland/Allegany County Strategy D: Support efforts to increase number of homeowners, to provide housing rehabilitation, and to increase new housing options Strategy E: Improve housing opportunities for persons with disabilities	City of Cumberland, housing service providers, non-profits, DHCD, Allegany County, developers, The Cumberland Housing Group, Allegany County Human Resources Development Commission, Cumberland Neighborhood Housing Services, Resources for Independence, Inc.
Outcome 2: Enable easier access to grant funds and housing development Progress Measures: Number of units rehabilitated	Strategy A: Explore improvements to historic preservation policy/procedures Strategy B: Partner with potential project administrators early in the development process	City of Cumberland, Maryland Historic Trust, DHCD, Department of Housing and Urban Development

Outcome 3: Increase Fair Housing Outreach and Education Progress Measure: Number of workshops/events/mini-courses provided to increase each year	Strategy A: Engage the public	Cumberland Human Relations Commission, landlords, management companies, Maryland Commission on Civil Rights, Allegany County Library System, NAACP
Outcome 4: Increase Number of Housing Units Progress Measure: Number net housing units in standard condition	Strategy A: Increase number of affordable housing units Strategy B: Increase number of single- family homes Strategy C: Increase number of rental units Strategy D: Increase the number of accessible housing units	Allegany County, City of Cumberland, The Cumberland Housing Group, Bridges 2 Opportunity Initiative
Outcome 5: Develop residential housing units within the Central Business District Progress Measures: Create at least 5 new residential units per year in the CBD	Strategy A: Continue the successful Upper Story Redevelopment Program Strategy B: Provide technical assistance to property owners so that they are aware of all applicable incentive programs Strategy C: Provide regular workshops to area realtors to bring awareness of incentive programs	City of Cumberland, Cumberland Historic Preservation Commission, Downtown Development Commission, CEDC

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
● Strong arts community with free and reduced cost events ● Availability of two institutions of higher learning ● Strong presence of faith-based organizations that collaborate together on events and programs	● Lack of retail/restaurant/service businesses in the central business district ● Lack of diversity in municipal government and business ownership ● Difficult and lengthy permitting process for Historic Preservation investment projects

- Strong civic groups that contribute to the community by fundraising for local charities and volunteerism
- Library system that continues to reinvest in facilities and public services
- Collaborative spirit from municipal departments working together on events and projects
- Historic resources that are open to the public and allow for additional sources of economic development
- Availability of visual and performing arts especially at free or reduced cost
- Strong sense of place

- Riverpark project challenges and delays: dam ownership decision, environmental impact of dam removal, ultimate ownership of completed project and maintenance of the park
- Potential for unwilling property owners to sell their property for parking.
- Lack of National Park Service support for the Riverpark project
- The Western Maryland Scenic Railroad tracks are located on part of the property that is to be rewatered for Riverpark project
- High poverty rate
- Higher than State average unemployment
- Lack of funding for increased public safety strategies
- Lack of mental healthcare options/providers
- Lack of addictions healthcare/providers
- Number of cultural and entertainment events should be increased
- Lack of full schedule at outdoor facilities

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: Improve mental health services Progress Measures: Number served	Strategy A: Directly address the mental health of persons arrested for crimes in a collaborative community effort	Allegany County Health Department, City of Cumberland Police Department, mental health providers, AHEC West, UPMC, behavioral health service providers
Outcome 2: Implement a" body" worn camera program for police officers Progress Measures: % of officers outfitted with cameras	Strategy A: Identify funding source for necessary equipment Strategy B: Acquire funding for necessary equipment Strategy C: Purchase and distribute cameras and equipment	Local NAACP, City of Cumberland Police Department, City of Cumberland Human Relations Commission
Outcome 3: Begin River Park construction, including mitigation and recreational features. Progress Measures: Complete in 5 years	Strategy A: Continue mitigation process for river park. Strategy B: Identify and obtain federal and state funding to construct the river park.	Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority, Cumberland, CEDC, DDC, Community Trust Foundation, Allegany County, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Army Corp of Engineers, Maryland Department of the Environment, American Rivers,

		DHCD, MHAA, NPS, SHA, Tri County Council, Maryland Department of Planning.
Outcome 4: Re-water the C&O Canal from Canal Basin to Elizabeth Street and improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay. Progress Measures: Complete in 5 years	Strategy A: Continue re-watering/water quality committee meetings Strategy B: Seek and obtain federal and state funding to re-water the Canal	City of Cumberland, CPDA, NPS, MDE, Army Corp, Allegany County Health Department, MD DNR, Tri County Council, DHCD, MDP, ARC, SHA
Outcome 5: Provide cultural, visual, and musical arts programming for residents and tourists Progress Measures: Calculate attendance at events and Allegany County Tourism Visitors Center guests and seek to increase by 5% per year	Strategy A: Request Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Programming grants as well as other funding sources for programming. Strategy B: Continue to partner with local organizations and nonprofits to support existing programming and create new programming activities	City of Cumberland, DDC, AAC, CPPDA, Heritage Association, Allegany Museum, Allegany County Tourism
Outcome 6: Expand the Passages of the Western Potomac Heritage area further into Cumberland and Allegany County. Progress Measures: Ongoing; obtain at least one grant award each year; increase visitors to museums and heritage tourism destinations within the area by a minimum of 20% each year	Strategy A: Assist with grant funding to support the expansion of the heritage area. Strategy B: Encourage public access and programming to the cultural and historical assets within the City of Cumberland and Allegany County.	Heritage Association, Canal Place Heritage Area, CPPDA, DDC, Historic Preservation Commission, Allegany Museum, Allegany County Tourism, AAC
Outcome 7: Renewed focus on special events and promotions to be held in the central business district to drive foot traffic and enhance offerings for local citizens and tourists Progress Measures Execute special events downtown at least quarterly Execute Groundbreaking Celebration for Baltimore Street and a Grand Opening	Strategy A: Create a Goodbye to the Bricks Celebration just prior to the start of the Baltimore Street Revitalization project Strategy B: Create a VIP Media Tour for regional members of the media when Baltimore Street reopens Strategy C: Continue to hold quarterly downtown events, promotions and contests during construction	Cumberland Downtown Development Commission (DDC) Downtown Cumberland Business Association (DCBA) Allegany Tourism Property Owners and Business Owners in the Central Business District City of Cumberland
Outcome 8: Willowbrook Outdoor Wellness (WOW) Center Progress Measure: Development of community based outdoor sports-recreation complex.	Strategy A: Turn 26-acres of unused land into a multi-generational recreational facility. Strategy B: Create uncommon activities such as woodlands hiking, kinetics and ultimate Frisbee. Strategy C: Create athletic playing fields for Allegany County residents. Strategy D: Create outdoor classrooms.	County Commissioners of Allegany County, ACM
Outcome 9: Allegany College of Maryland (ACM) Campus Lighting Enhancement	Strategy A: Enhance student learning by creating a better learning environment through enhanced lighting. 2. Create a safer environment for students, faculty, staff and visitors by updating exterior lighting.	ACM, Scott Electric Foundation, Electric Company Rebate
Outcome 10: Allegany College of Maryland Microgrid	Strategy A: Feasibility study for a sophisticated local grid that will enable us to determine the level of energy, optimal integration, and financial savings that the proposed system will provide.	Allegany College of Maryland

Progress Measure: To analyze the feasibility and public benefit of a potential microgrid for ACM, a system intended to provide clean, efficient, resilient power for the campus under normal, grid-connected circumstances and keep critical loads up-and-running in island-mode during a crisis.		
Outcome 11: Sustainable Land Reclamation Transfer Progress Measure: Program establishment Number of successful transfers	Strategy A: Establish a partnership among ACM, WVU and Hocking College to create a sustainable transfer opportunity for first-generation students from both ACM and Hocking's Forestry programs to enroll in WVU bachelor's program for Sustainable Land Reclamation.	Allegany College of Maryland, West Virginia University, Hocking College
Outcome 12: Public Safety Improvements Progress Measure: Lower crime rate Lower Overdose Death rate Police officer at Every Community Event Provide 5 years of foot and bike patrol strategy to targeted neighborhoods	Strategy A: Support the Drug Abatement Response Team (DART) Strategy b: Continue To provide Naloxone and Naloxone administration training Strategy C: Increase Number of special drug treatment counselors and mental health support for overdose victims Strategy D: partner with community groups to provide presence at major events Strategy E: Once again receive grants from GOCP to continue community policing efforts to major protests and other potentially volatile events/Group gatherings Strategy F: continue to provide foot and bike patrols within targeted at-risk neighborhood areas Strategy A: Continue to provide targeted CRIME enforcement in DownTown area Strategy B: continue to participate in Maryland crime information network (formerly known as safe streets) Program Strategy C: increase police presence	AHEC West, Allegany County Health Department, Cumberland Police Department, UPMC hospital system, Governor's Office on Crime and Prevention, City of Cumberland Department of Community Development (CDBG grant program), Governor's Office, State of Maryland, Department of Community Development
Outcome 13: Increase access to broadband Number of people served	Strategy A: Identify funding sources for broadband access Strategy B: identify underserved Strategy C: Improve broadband infrastructure	Allegany County Library System, Allegany County, City of Cumberland, Allegany County Board of Education, Cumberland Economic Development Corporation, Allegany College of Maryland
Outcome 14: Outcome: Support child related services. Progress Measures: Increased services and activities for children.	Strategy A: Support expanding child related services –including community center/childcare, indoor and outdoor recreational facilities, after school programs Strategy B: Expand after school tutoring and other educational programs. Strategy C: Improve summer learning programs.	YMCA of Cumberland, City of Cumberland, Local Management Board

Outcome 15: Improved access to healthy lifestyle and ensure all ages have access to quality recreational opportunities.
Progress Measures:
Number of health education events and programs implemented,
Percentage of population experiencing chronic disease and obesity,
Additional recreational opportunities are available.
Increases in number of local teens participating in organized activities
Expand activities, programs and recreational services to adults over 60 (partnership with assisted living centers)
	Strategy A: Expand access to community health and wellness programs by expanding programming to promote and support youth and adult access to exercise and active living.
	   1. Complete a Healthy Aging facility assessment to create a safe and welcoming environment and make necessary enhancements to address issues.
	   2. Provide transportation from public schools to after-school programs.
	   3. Engage our Youth Advisory Committee to develop additional programming for young adults and teenagers to develop life skills and healthy lifestyles.
	   4. Collaborate with local youth organizations to expand after-school programs and activities.
	   5. Youth wellness programs in public schools.
	
	Strategy B: Evaluate alternatives for additional recreational space, facilities, or activities.
	
	Strategy C: Work in partnership between local agencies and local medical centers/doctors to strengthen community focused health programming.
	Strategy D: Develop and execute Cumberland citywide 5 Year Parks and Recreation plan within the Cumberland Sustainable Communities boundaries
		YMCA of Cumberland, City of Cumberland, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Allegany County Government

Outcome 16: Increase community participation and sense of place by bringing people together to complete volunteer service projects. Progress Measures: Number of community volunteer participation and volunteer hours	Strategy A: Develop volunteer group to strengthen the city and respond to communities pressing needs: host community building events, increase community outreach to identify community building events Strategy B: Work in partnership to bring activities to Main Street that help create a deeper sense of belonging	City of Cumberland, County United Way, YMCA of Cumberland, community partners, businesses

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
- City has implemented updated software system that will allow for enhancements to the existing permit system - Efficient interdepartmental permit review process - Good working relationship with State agencies - Increased staff for code enforcement - Historic resources that are open to the public and allow for - Cumberland Economic Development Corporation staffing/capacity	- Steep slopes in several areas limiting development - Lack of public participation - Inability to recruit new police officers - Inability to retain existing officers - Difficult and lengthy Cumberland city permitting process involving Historic Preservation activities or activities which require Section 106 reviews

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: Return the City of Cumberland to a positive growth trend over the next 30 years Progress Measures: Annual total population figures and estimates and annual building permit trends	Strategy A: Work with Cumberland CEDC, Allegany County and supporting State agencies to attract new development, redevelopment, and adaptive reuse Strategy B: Work with Allegany Arts Council and Allegany County Chamber of Commerce to promote the city's arts and entertainment infrastructure to attract new artisans to the city Strategy C: Work with area housing partners to establish a land banking program and to encourage further revitalization and redevelopment of the old North End neighborhood.	City of Cumberland, CEDC, Chamber of Commerce, Allegany County, MD Department of Economic Development, MD Department of Planning

Outcome 2: Develop more consistent and easier to understand zoning and subdivision regulations between city and county administered lands in the Willowbrook Road Gateway Corridor. Progress Measures: Establish an oversight planning committee, conduct regularly scheduled meetings, revise and update city and county zoning and subdivision regulations	Strategy A: Work with Allegany County, MDOT, neighborhood representatives to form a joint planning committee to conduct meetings and oversee the development of new development regulations Strategy B: Work with the Willowbrook Road Planning Committee to develop a coordinated, comprehensive land development plan for the neighborhood and amend the local comprehensive plans accordingly	Allegany County, MDOT/SHA, local planning committees, City of Cumberland
Outcome 3: Improve police force hiring and retention strategy and procedures Progress Measure: Number of police officers filing early resignation Number of days required to fill open positions	Strategy A: Implement a police recruitment and retainment policy/procedure/marketing and incentive package Strategy B: Reduce the number of police officers resigning early Strategy C: Reduce the time period required to fill vacant positions	City of Cumberland Police Department, community partners
Outcome 4: Provide a positive and streamlined permitting experience for Historic Preservation investment in Cumberland Progress Measure: Number of positive experiences Increase number of commercial improvements downtown and targeted areas Improve quality of housing stock/Number of units improved/ units added	Strategy A: Develop a customer survey tool to measure progress Strategy B: Prioritize improvements to community development policy/procedures for staff Strategy C: Acquire funding for a comprehensive historic preservation plan for Cumberland to create targeted priorities, improve policy/procedure, including streamlined programmatic agreements with MHT, to increase housing development and to increase private and public investment in housing rehabilitation and reuse	Maryland Historic Trust, Cumberland Department of Community Development, DHCD

APPENDIX

Accessibility Improvements at Canal Place Shops and Train Station

Western MD Train Station – Before ↓   **After ↓**   **After ↓**

Allegany Museum (Pershing St.) Interior Renovation

Before ↓   After ↓

Leasehold Redevelopment

169-171 N. Centre St.   Before ↓   After ↓

**Commercial Property Façade Improvement Program**

23 N. Centre St. Parklet   Before↓   After ↓

Upper Story Redevelopment

169-171 N. Centre St.   Before ↓   After ↓

George Washington's Headquarters Cabin Emergency Repairs

Riverside Park   Before ↓   After ↓
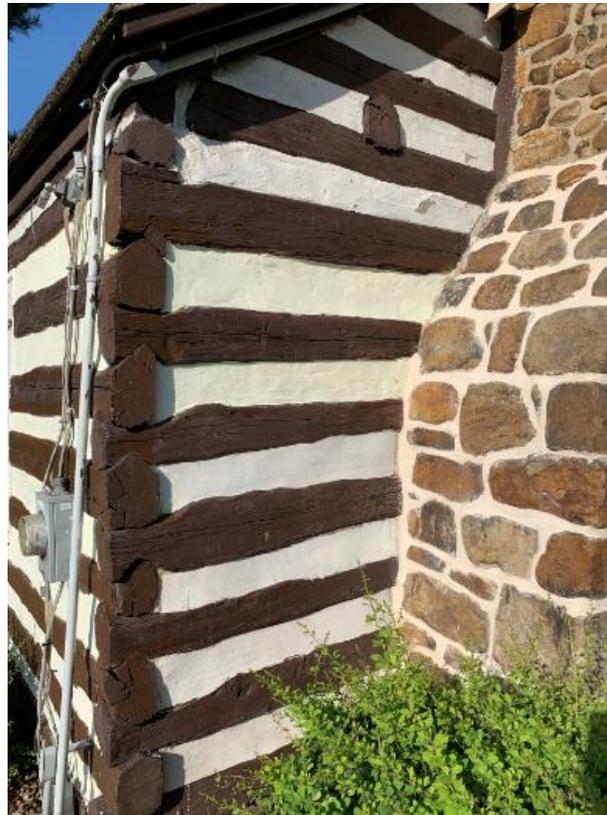
Baltimore Street / Pedestrian Mall Redesign

Before ↓

After ↓ (Artist Rendering)

Baltimore Street, Looking West
Baltimore Street Redevelopment Project

Doors at the YMCA

YMCA ADA Compliant Water Fountains

Bellevue Sidewalk

Sidewalk at Jane Frazier Village

Finished Roof at the Riverside YMCA

WEX Loft Lift

WEX Loft Lift

WEX Loft Lift
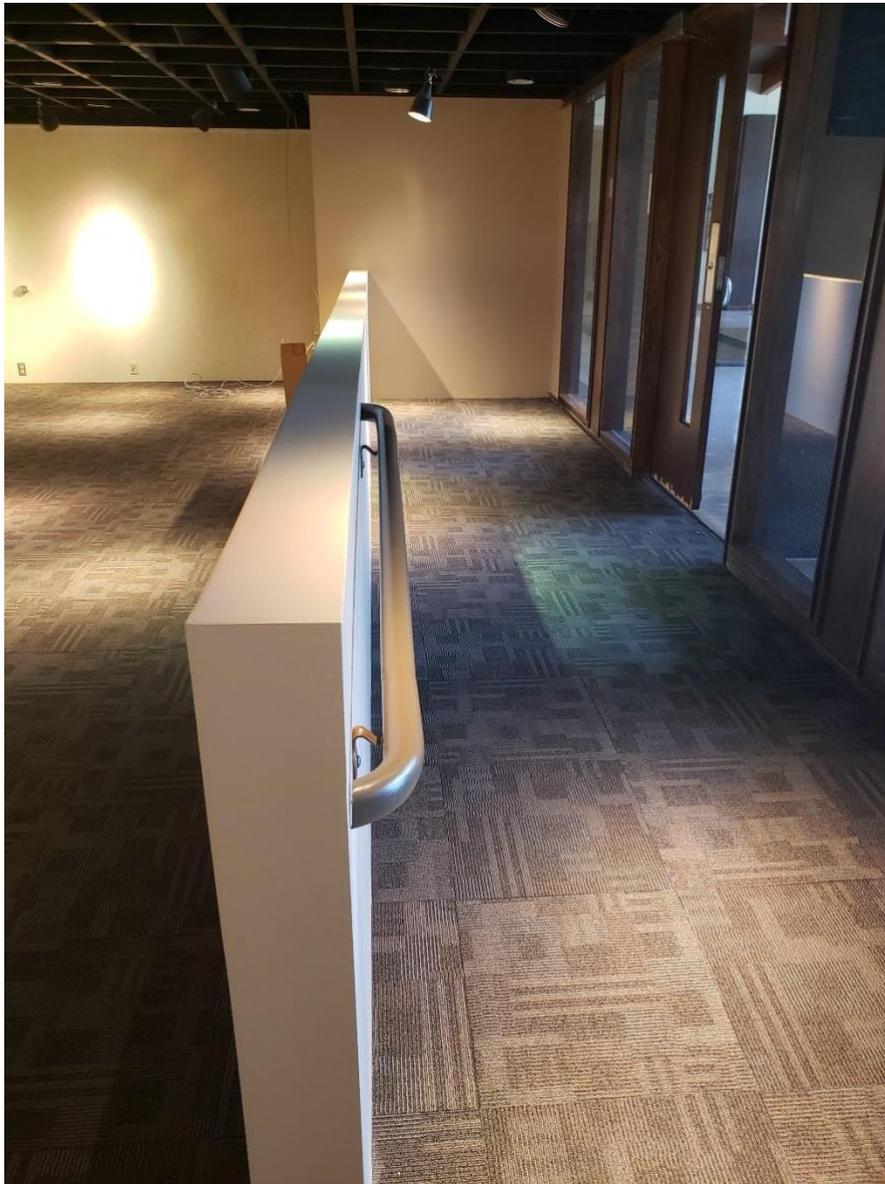
Constitution Park Inclusive Playground

YMCA Gilchrist Transitional Housing Shelter – Family Unit Rehabilitation


2019 - Apt. Renor.

Apt 3
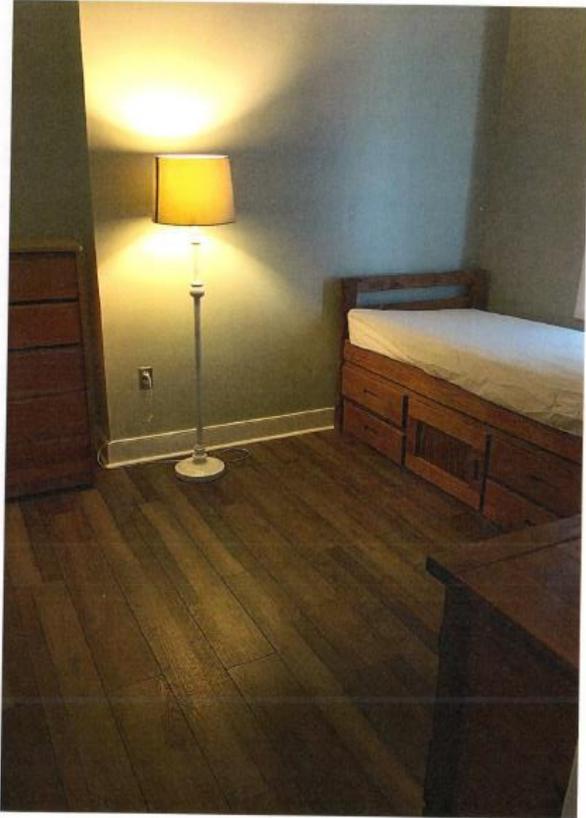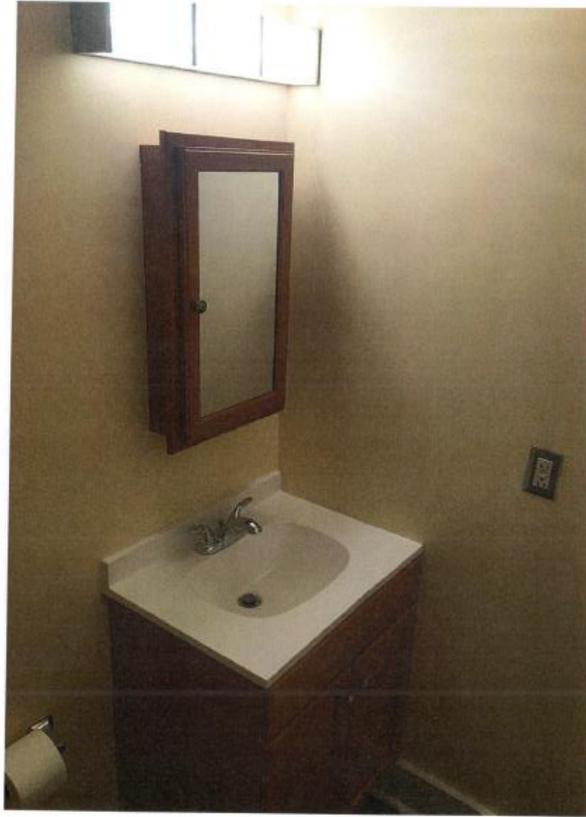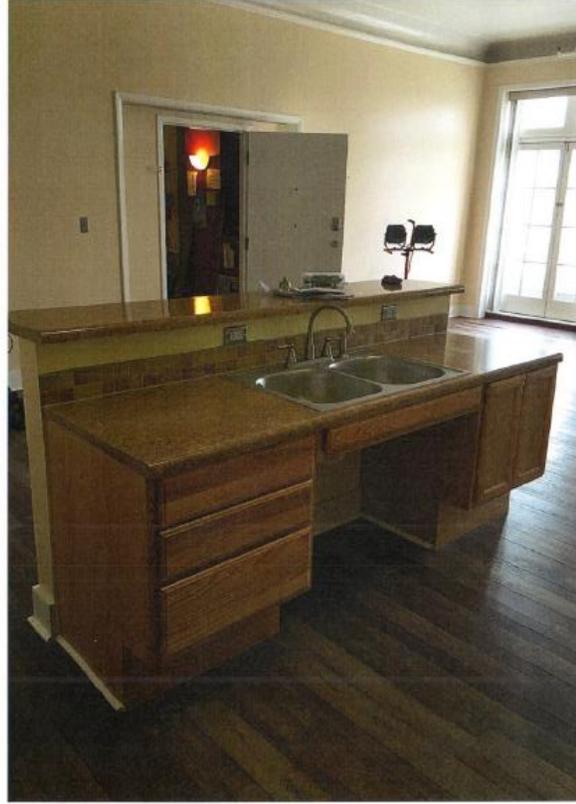
Apt 7
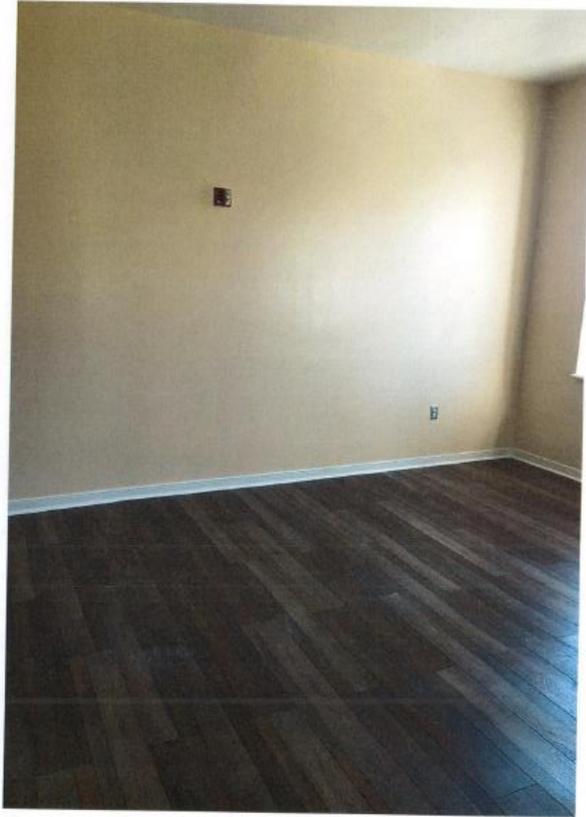
YMCA Gilchrist Security

2019 Security at Entrance

**YMCA Gilchrist Single Women's Shelter Additions**

2017
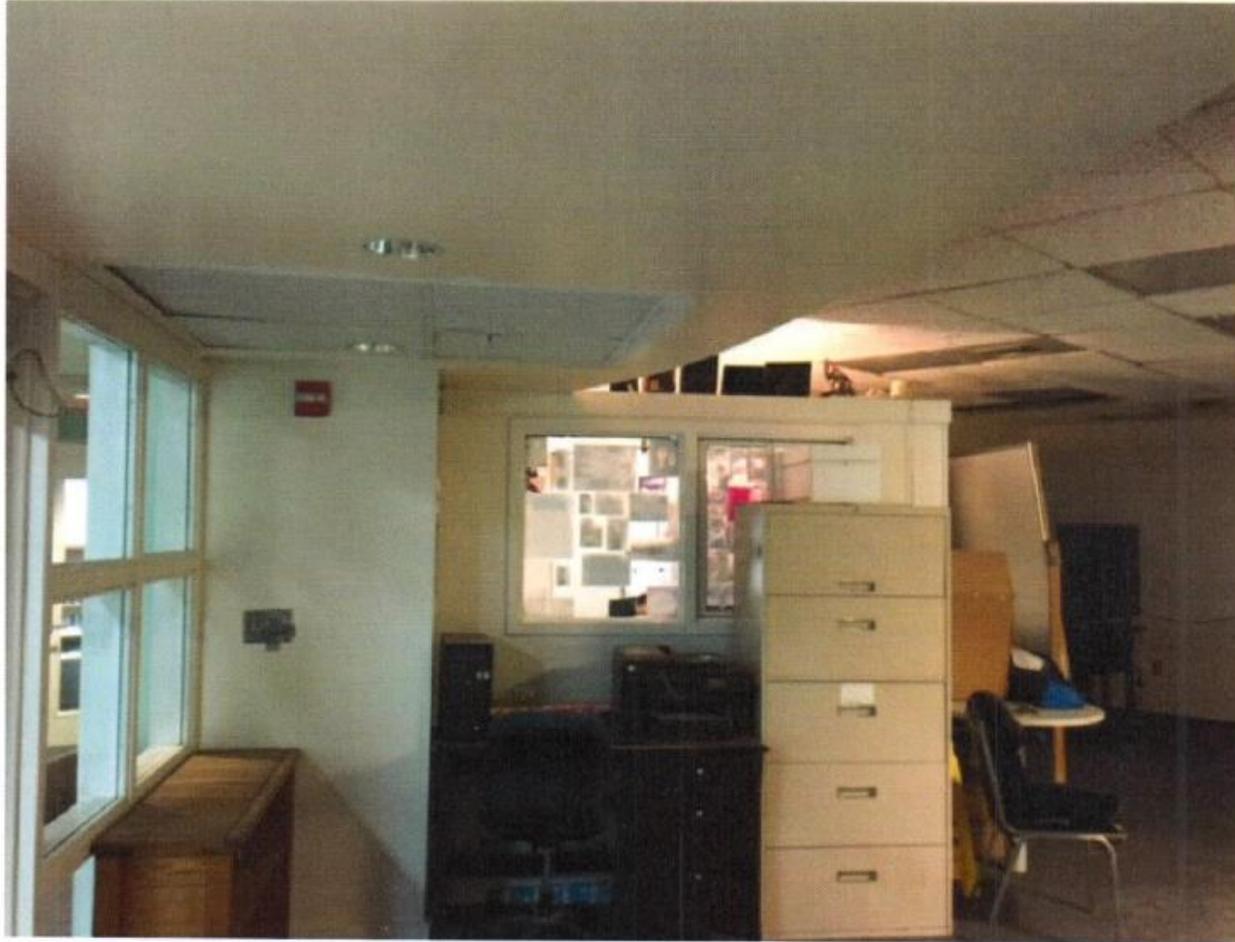
B4 Reno

B4 Reno
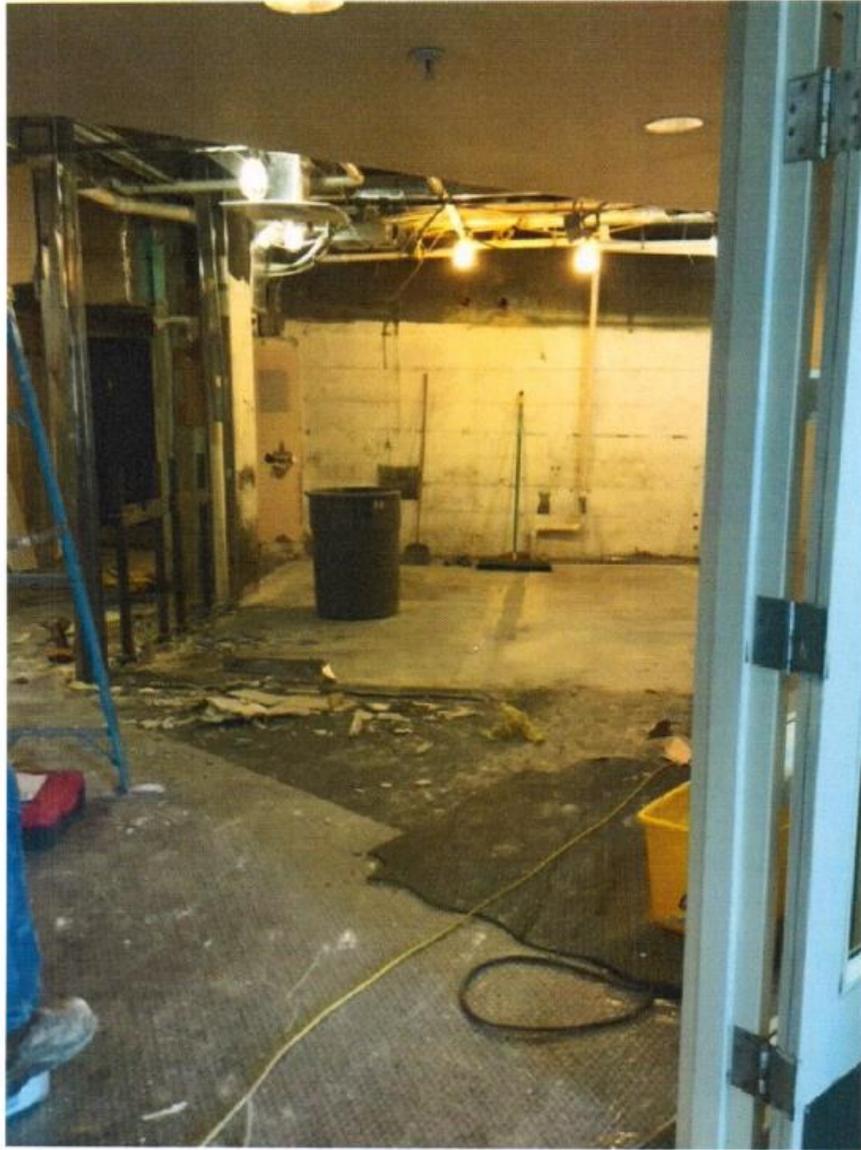
Start work

In Progress

Reno-start