



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/>

SGSC Approved - 11.23

LARRY HOGAN
Governor
BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
Lt. Governor
KENNETH C. HOLT
Secretary
OWEN McEVOY
Deputy Secretary

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 page of the electronic application is the Table of Contents. This should also serve as a checklist and be used to provide corresponding tabs.

Please submit all materials (application, maps, pictures, and/or shapefiles) via email to the Sustainable Communities project management team.

Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Deliver Sustainable Community Applications via email:

Subject Line: Sustainable Community Application

To: Carter Reitman

carter.reitman@maryland.gov

Copy: Olivia Ceccarelli-McGonigal

olivia.ceccarelli@maryland.gov

Site Visits. Follow-up Discussion, Technical Assistance

Attendance at a minimum of one application consultation session or training 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.

If requested, the Department can provide technical assistance to local governments to prepare their Sustainable Communities applications. 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.

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.

Approval

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 five 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 in which people in your community live and which make 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 conditions (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 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 reflect 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 section, 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: Town of Federalsburg

NAME OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY: Town of Federalsburg

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

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

- [Applicant Information](#)

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

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

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

- [Action Plan](#)

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

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

- [Disclosure Authorization](#)

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

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

I. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Sustainable Community:		Town of Federalsburg	
Name of Applicant:		Town of Federalsburg	
Applicant's Federal Identification Number:		52-6000788	
Applicant's Street Address:		118 N Main St,	
City: Federalsburg	County: Caroline	State: MD	Zip Code: 21632
Phone Number: [REDACTED]	Fax Number:	Web Address: www.townoffederalsburg.org	

Sustainable Community Application Local Contact:

Name: Kimberly Abner		Title: Mayor	
Address: 118 N Main St,	City: Federalsburg	State: MD	Zip Code: 21632
Phone Number: [REDACTED]	Fax Number:	E-mail Address: [REDACTED]	

Sustainable Community Contact for Application Status:

Name: Kimberly Abner		Title: Mayor	
Address: 118 N Main St	City: Federalsburg	State: MD	Zip Code: 21632
Phone Number: [REDACTED]	Fax Number:	E-mail Address: [REDACTED]	

Other Sustainable Community Contacts:

Name: Kristy Marshall		Title: Clerk/Acting Town Manager	
Address: 118 N Main St	City: Federalsburg	State: MD	Zip Code: 21632
Phone Number: [REDACTED]	Fax Number:	E-mail Address: [REDACTED]	

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY – General Information

A. Sustainable Community Boundary and Description

- (1) Are you requesting any changes to your Sustainable Community boundary? Describe why or why not? No
- (2) If yes, Include the following in as an attachment:
 - 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: 1.985 mi² (approx. 1,249 acres)
- (4) Existing federal, state or local designations:

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section A

☐Main Street ☐Maple Street

☒National Register Historic District ☐Local Historic District ☐Arts & Entertainment District

☒State Enterprise Zone Special Taxing District ☐BRAC ☐State Designated TOD

☒Other(s): Maryland Environmental Justice Area, MD Heritage Targeted Investment Zone

- (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?

In the past twenty years, there has been a decline in population increase with only a 4.54% increase in 2010 and a 3.10% increase in 2021.

Feddersburg is the largest town in the southern part of the County, nearly three times the size of Preston, and is the second largest town in Caroline County behind Denton. By adding resources, we are hoping to increase our population.

Feddersburg's median age is 32.1 years old. This average is younger than both the State (39.3) and the County (39.2), but Greensboro (31.1) and Goldsboro (28.8) are younger. The Under 5 age group (8%) is slightly higher than the County and State (6% each) but only Denton (6%) is lower compared to the other towns. The 5-17 age range is higher than the County (18%) and the State (16%) but is lower than Greensboro (25%) and Goldsboro (27%) and even with its southern county counterpart, Preston (23%).

The largest percentage of Feddersburg's population is in the 25-44 age range which is the primary labor force and household forming age group. The age group is slightly lower than the County (25%) and the State (27%) and lower than all the other towns in the County. The average of the 18-24 age range is slightly higher than the County and State, but much higher than most of the other towns in the County except for Denton which is an equal percentage. This is the age range that is typically most mobile and is reflective of young adults going away to college and into the military; however, in comparison to the other towns, more of these young adults seem to be staying in Feddersburg.

The population of Feddersburg is nearly split racially. While the White population makes up 48.34% of the population, the other 51.66% is made up of Black/African American (43.80%) and all others (7.86%). This ratio is comparable to the State ratio, which is nearly split, (White (48.79%), Black/African American (29.53%) and all others (21.88%)).

Women make up the largest portion of the population in Feddersburg. Women make up 57.65% whereas Men make up 42.35%. This ratio is slightly higher than the State and County average and only Ridgely has a higher population of Women at 60.97%.

The proportion of Feddersburg's individuals 3 years or older enrolled in nursery school and preschool is similar to the State and the County; however, those enrolled in nursery school and preschool, as well as enrollment in elementary school is higher than both the State and the County. High School enrollment is comparable with the State and slightly lower than the County; however, college or graduate school enrollment is comparable to the County but much lower than the State.

While Feddersburg has 36.27% of those over 25 with a high school diploma, which is higher than the State at 23.85%, it is slightly lower than the County at 39.34%. The percentages of this age group with

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section A

less than a 9th grade education and/or no diploma (21.17%) is much higher than the State (8.91%) and only slightly higher than the County (15.14%). While Federalsburg has a high percentage of individuals 25 or older with some college, no degree than the County and State, the percentage of individuals with degrees is quite a bit lower.

According to the 2021 Census, the Town of Federalsburg has a civilian labor force of 1119 persons over the age of 16. Out of this number, 72 people are unemployed is an unemployment rate of 6.43%. This is only slightly higher than the County (5.05%) and the State (5.82%). The largest percentage of the population (31.72%) is employed in the Education, Health, and Social Services sector. The next largest percentage (15.46%) is in employed in the Retail sector. Only 5.54% of the population is employed in the Manufacturing sector and 6.08% are employed in the Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities sector. With the largest portion of business in Federalsburg being in these two sectors, it would appear that most of the people that work in these businesses do not live here. 74.2% of the working population is employed in the Private Wage & Salary sector which is comparable to the County; however, the percentage of self-employed persons in Federalsburg (1.8%) is much lower than the County percentage (4.28%).

The majority of workers in Federalsburg used a car, truck, or van to commute to work according to the 2021 Census. While this percentage (74.2%) is slightly lower than the County (82.10%), nearly double the workers carpooled. Public transportation is used much more than in the County and the percentage of people in Federalsburg that work from home is only slightly less than the County. The average travel time to work is 32.4 minutes which is similar to the County at 32.8 minutes.

According to the 2021 Census, the median household and family income are nearly half of that of the County. Approximately 33.5% of households and 25.6% of families are below the poverty line. This is significantly higher than the County household (15.6%) and family (11.0%).

Federalsburg had 996 total households in 2021 which is down 7.9% from 2010 and is 6.3% higher than the 1.6% decrease in the County over the decade. Of these households, 707 are family households and 289 are non-family households. While the family households only decreased by .1% since 2010, the non-family households decreased significantly by 22.5%. The household density, or number of persons per household, for both Federalsburg and the County has not had any change since 2010 and is holding at 2.53. and 2.68 persons per household respectively.

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?

4 years ago, we had a change in leadership including Town Manager, Mayor, and a new Councilmember as well as 2 years ago we added another new member to council. An infusion of new blood has started Federalsburg on a course of action as opposed to reaction. A green team was formed to start working on Sustainable Maryland certification. Leadership now is actively looking to improve the Town through community engagement, participation, and pride in where one lives. We are working on new committees to help with resident ownership of projects and activities around Town.

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section A

- (2) What have been the strengths and challenges of the capacity of the Sustainable Communities Workgroup with respect to implementation of the SC Plan?
Not much was done by the previous administration to stay active with Sustainable Communities. The attitude of understanding the value of partnerships with our state agencies and programs changed with the leadership change and we are working toward being a thriving municipality on the eastern shore where our residents live, work and play. Offering valuable resources, connecting residents with resources they need and offering an enhanced community experience is part of our new comprehensive plan that is currently being revised.
- (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.) are the Sustainable Communities Action Plan based?
We recently (July 20th, 2023) had a Comprehensive Plan community input meeting with our Planning and Zoning board. In addition, over the last 2 years, the Town of Federalsburg participated in at least 3 Town Hall meetings sponsored by Shore Strategies and Caroline Human Services Council. These Town Hall meetings were used to discuss our positive areas and areas of improvement. Target areas included parks and outdoor recreation, housing, childcare, education, food, transportation and local support systems. Data collected from these meetings will be used to address resident's needs.
- (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.
Yes, once we finish our comprehensive plan and review the data from our community meetings, we will be putting together a plan and reach out for assistance.

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 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.

Accomplishment 1:

Outcome: Become more energy efficient and reducing our carbon footprint for the Town

Projects:

- Installed a solar field to offset electric bills generated by our wastewater treatment plant.
The Town of Federalsburg was awarded a grant to fund the solar panel project which includes the civil site work consisting of furnishing all labor, equipment, and materials for the construction of a solar farm, and the furnishing of all labor, equipment, and materials for the installation of an 800 kW Solar Power Generation System that includes panels, tacking, racking foundations, all DC electrical devices and wiring, and the required interconnect agreement with the Utility Provider.
- Installed 3 EV charging stations at our Marina Park on South Main Street
The Town of Federalsburg received 3 EV charging stations from Delmarva Power. These charging stations were installed at our Marina located on South Main where many visitors using the park or water access can charge their cars.
- Replace sections of street lights with LED lights. Each year we give Delmarva Power a section of town to convert to more energy efficient lights.

Partners: Maryland Department of the Environment, Delmarva Power

Impact: Offsets the electric bills of our wastewater treatment plant and allows us to bank and sell unused solar credits.

Accomplishment 2:

Outcome: Quality of Life Enhancements

Projects:

- 2 Haitian grocery markets have opened in the Downtown area.
- The Town has sponsored free community events to celebrate our bicentennial. Our major event in May featured activities for the kids, food trucks, live music and vendors. The plan is that event would be the kick starter for a summer concert series on the water downtown once a month.
- The Town solicited and received 13 business sponsors to participate in a public art project. Sponsors paid for 6.5 feet fiberglass sturgeon and painted them for a public art display.

Partners: local businesses, Caroline Count Arts Council

Impact: Getting more people out downtown and participating in Town sponsored events enticing people to come into town instead of leaving town.

Accomplishment 3:

Outcome: Marshyhope Creek Enhancements/Tourism

Projects:

- Completed construction of ADA-compliant hard kayak launch; continue the upkeep of Marina Park, the Marshyhope Greenway Trail, and the VFW boat ramp.
- Concluded phase 1 of our Marina Park wetlands project. This project is the first phase of several to improve stormwater management at the marina and by doing so reduce the nitrogen and phosphorous run-off into the Marshyhope Creek. The project has a firm budget cap of \$175,497 after money was spent from the \$300,000 for engineering and design. This project has several purposes, all of which are directed to better water quality and species habitats at the Federalsburg Marina Park, located in downtown Federalsburg. Upon completion of this project, we will reduce the nutrients and sediment entering the Marshyhope Creek, by installing bio-retention and wetland areas in the park and adding tree canopy. The Town of Federalsburg sees this project as a first phase of an effort to improve water quality, reduce the grass-covered area and the need for constant mowing, and educate the community and guests about the benefits of water quality and native plants to support birds, butterflies, and pollinators.
- Marina Park pier and partial bulkhead replacement. The fishing pier and a portion of the rotting bulkhead at the marina were replaced through a grant provided by MDE. The remaining bulkhead is in desperate need of repair, and we will be seeking funds for this project.
- Help the first annual Federalsburg Flotilla on the Marshyhope. This kayak poker run showcased the beautiful Marshyhope and Idlewild Wildlife Management Area.
- Madness on the Marshyhope Blue Catfish and Invasive Species Tournament. In 2022, the Town of Federalsburg held our first Annual Madness on the Marshyhope Blue Catfish and Invasive Species Tournament. We recognize the importance of removing these invasive species from our waterways and wanted to hold an event that would shed light on the invasive blue catfish and snakehead fish in Marshyhope Creek. We had a youth fishing tournament where youth received free fishing equipment, anglers participated in the tournament for prize money and the fish was cleaned and shared with members of the community as a local food source. This is now an annual event for the Town of Federalsburg and will be held at our Marina each year.
- The Town of Federalsburg published Buster the Blue Catfish. The video book educates readers of all ages about the invasive blue catfish and why they are bad for our ecosystem. The link to the book was shared on Facebook on multiple websites and an article was on the front page of the Star Democrat telling the story of Federalsburg and how Buster the Blue Catfish came to be. <https://youtu.be/ocNxVukngkM>

Partners: MDE, DNR, Caroline County Public Schools, Coastal Conservation Association of Maryland, Yamaha Rightwaters, Shore Gourmet, Rural Maryland Council, Maryland's Best Seafood, Chesapeake and Atlantic Bay Funds

Impact: 193 blue catfish for a total 294.54 pounds out of the river. Residents were educated on why they should catch and eat blue catfish and not return them to the waterways.

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:

Encourage and promote eco-tourism along the Marshyhope Creek corridor and in Federalsburg itself. Develop strategies to encourage and promote the use of docks, boat slips, and kayaking, through market research and outreach. Connect Federalsburg's history to the walking trails and water trail, particularly Captain John Cook's Water Trail which is at the merge of the Nanticoke River and Marshyhope Creek

Narrative:

The previous council did not see the value in eco-tourism and therefore it was not a priority. The current council realizes the value of eco-tourism and plans to continue our mission to promote Marshyhope Creek and the Town of Federalsburg as a destination for day trips to enjoy the scenic Marshyhope Creek and the Idlewild Wildlife area.

Outcome:

Reduce commercial storefront vacancies and build a vibrant downtown.

Narrative:

Façade grants were received and utilized; however, we still do not have any additional businesses on our Main Street. We have empty storefronts and are looking to fill out storefront to revitalize our downtown area. We plan to start holding events downtown at our waterfront area to draw people down into Town thus starting the need to have store areas. Some of our storefronts are churches and do not have an economic impact on our town so we would prefer brick and mortar stores downtown.

Outcome:

Increase food choice and access to local food for Town residents.

Narrative:

A new restaurant did open in fall of 2022. The restaurant had trouble finding staff to work as well as having a menu that was attractive to the residents in the area. Attempts to have a farmers' market were unsuccessful. We aren't sure whether it was a lack of offerings at the market or scheduled dates and time. We have not had anyone respond to the sale of the Town owned restaurant. We are considering other uses for this space. A grant was provided through DHCD to do work on the restaurant and money is being used to bring the space up to code for a potential sale or other project.

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 into 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.

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

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.			✓	In the past five years, after the 2009 upgrade of Federalsburg's wastewater treatment plant, the Nanticoke River Keepers have given the Marshyhope in the Federalsburg area a B- rating annually. We have remained constant in our water quality in the Marshyhope and have continued to receive small monetary incentive awards for consistency in our water quality from our plant/
2. Have you improved wildlife habitat in your community? Ex. native plantings, pollinator gardens, rain gardens	✓			With the recent improvements thanks to our storm water management project at the marina, we increased our pollinator gardens, native plantings, tree canopy, capturing rainwater in rain barrels from the pavilion roofs and providing added filtration for water running into the Marshyhope.
3. Have you increased access to green space, parks or outdoor recreational opportunities?	✓			We have removed fallen trees at the northern part of the Marshyhope allowing for kayakers and canoers to further traverse the northern part of the Marshyhope. We replaced the fishing pier at the marina to allow for safer access to fish the Marshyhope. The Marshyhope was dredged to remove sediment by the East Central Avenue bridge. Areas were cleaned around the fishing pond at Chambers Park to allow easier access for recreational fishing in the pond. We partnered with the Federalsburg Lions club to clean up Chambers Park around the pavilions and provided grills and benches for residents to use at no cost. Working with other residents, and Caroline County Parks and Recreation, made repairs to the accessory building for both softball and baseball fields.
4. Have you implemented operational sustainability practices (example: town hall enhancements) and/or community-based practices? (ex. Rain barrels or rain gardens at residences, recycling, composting etc)	✓			We have implemented rain barrels to capture rainwater from our pavilions at the marina. Mayor and Council packets and meeting agendas are now digital instead of printing everything out for our meetings. Added irrigation from the Marshyhope to water plants on the bridge. Water is recycled back into the river as plants are watered instead of driving around a water truck to water plants.
OTHER:				

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

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	✓			Yes, in 2020, Royal Farms opened at the major intersection of the Town. The vacant restaurant in Town has been leased and we are hoping for an opening in January of 2024.
2. Did the Municipality/ Sustainable Community area receive any designations that support local economic development?	✓			Federalsburg is in a designated Environmental Justice area which will allow us to apply for other funding sources to prioritize environmental health initiatives in our community.
3. Has there been an increase in foot traffic in the Main Street/commercial district?		✓		There has been limited economic growth on Main Street.
4. Have the number of commercial vacancies decreased?		✓		We have not had any commercial buildings close.
5. Has there been an increase in local jobs within the Sustainable Community for its residents?	✓			M&M Carnot added an addition and is hiring approximately 100 staff members. Lywood Electric built a larger corporate office and has expanded. Crystal Steele received a large investment from Ørsted Energy and plans to expand their staff by 75 employees. New Royal Farms that opened in 2020 has provided jobs to local residents.
6. Has there been an increase in workforce development training or other opportunities for connecting potential employees to well-paying jobs?	✓			M&M Carnot has implemented a training program within the company and with the local schools to train potential employees as well as current employees on welding skills that are needed for the company's expansion.
OTHER:				

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

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?		✓		The Marshyhope Creek Greenway trail is 2.5 miles long. and runs beside and behind the downtown area and Marshyhope Creek. The trail is a hiking, biking, and walking trail, with ample opportunities for the Federalsburg community to travel to the downtown safely, experience the Eastern Shore's beauty, and exercise. We continue to maintain and repair the trail as needed.
2. Have there been improvements to the public transit infrastructure?		✓		We still only have one Delmarva community bus stop. We are talking to our county commissioners about alternatives to the bus to provide better, more reliable modes of transportation for our residents.
3. Has there been an increase in sidewalks? (Amount in linear feet). Were accessibility elements added, such as more ADA-accessible ramps and signage/signals? Has there been a noticeable increased use of these walking places?	✓			600 linear feet were completed as part of the safe routes to school program.
4. Have there been any roadway improvements that support "Complete" or "Green" streets?		✓		Double yellow safety lines were painted on our major roads into town. LED lights were added along the downtown corridor and each year we provide a priority list for replacement LED lighting to Delmarva Power. Double yellow no passing lines were painted on the bypass as an added safety mechanism for travelers going to and from the industrial park.
5. Has traffic congestion along major roads decreased? (Amount in percent)			✓	We currently have a bypass around town that is used to access the 3 industrial parks. We currently do not experience any congestion.
OTHER:				

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

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?	✓			Yes. Local residents continue to improve and renovate their homes, including the addition of energy efficient windows and solar panels.
2. Has the homeownership rate increased?		✓		Number of rental licenses has increased over the last 5 years.
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?		✓		There has not been any new housing development in the past five years, however, preliminary groundwork is being completed on a new 40 unit townhouse community within the Sustainable Communities area.
4. Has there been demolition of blighted properties?	✓			The Federalsburg Historical Society demolished one blighted home on Old Denton Road and has taken over the care and maintenance of the property. We have other blighted properties that need to be addressed.
5. Has the residential vacancy rate decreased?		✓		The residential vacancy has remained the same.
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?		✓		The town has not partnered with any agency to improve our housing stock. We have had meetings with buyers looking to purchase and renovate houses to then sell for profit. These houses tend to need major renovations and are sold for reasonable prices for the area. During the pandemic, landlords were not allowed to evict their residents. Once the pandemic ended, we did not see an increase in evictions. We have not initiated any programs on our own, outside of state funded programs to stop evictions.

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

7. Has there been an increase in homeownership counseling services or individuals accessing such services?		✓		The Town has partnered with habitat for humanity in the past and we would be interested in continuing that relation with them.
OTHER:				

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

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?	✓			Some historic properties have been purchased and renovated. We would like more of our historic properties to undergo renovations but the cost of materials over the last 3 years has made this a challenge. The Federalsburg Lions Club renovated an old community building from 1953. The space is now a rental location for parties, receptions and meetings. The Chambers Park log cabin was renovated during the summer. The improvements included roof replacement and repairs to the door and window frames.
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.	✓			The Federalsburg Historical Society has expanded their display area and public events thanks to working with the Bicentennial Committee to hold and promote our 200 years this year. They have had more traffic over the past year than in previous years thank to the committee holding events there showcasing out history. We are currently working on Federalsburg Activities Center. This center will be located downtown and play host to numerous activities for residents of all ages. Planned activities include exercises classes, access to internet, computer training, job training, mentorship and a community garden. Our Sturgeon public art project will be placed out at our new section of Marina Park that was enhanced with the water retention ponds. This area will become Sturgeon Park.
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.	✓			Over the last several years, the Mayor and Council recognized the value of having local events. We held our first annual Federalsburg Flotilla on the Marshyhope, our Bicentennial Festival which provided amusements for kids, live music for the community, food trucks and fireworks. This event was held downtown at our dock area and we would like to parlay this event in to a summer monthly concert serious on the water for the community to enjoy in 2024. We also held our first annual Madness on the Marshyhope Blue Catfish tournament and food festival. This festival provided free fishing equipment to kids under the age of 16 with lessons on how to fish and the importance of getting rid of the blue catfish. Shore Strategies held 4 of their community conversations here over the last 2 years. This event allowed residents to interact with local government leaders about our assets and opportunities for improvement.

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

4. Have there been any changes in access to health and wellness services? Examples include mobile clinics, hospitals, telehealth opportunities.	✓			<p>During the pandemic, residents were able and are still able to participate in telehealth opportunities. Anticipated to open in summer 2024, our new Choptank Health state of the art center includes more than 21,000 square feet of space. The new center will include five dedicated wings to deliver medical, dental, and behavioral health services, giving Choptank Health the space needed to meet the healthcare needs of more patients. Our local schools also have Choptank Health staff located in the schools to support our students.</p> <p>Caroline County Health Department has a mobile treatment bus that visits First Church of God twice a month and provides assistance for area residents who are experience substance use issues.</p> <p>The Mobile Crisis Team is available 24/7 for residents that are experiencing a mental health crisis and need assistance.</p>
5. Are there any residential health and wellness opportunities in place (i.e. athletic facilities, recreational indoor/outdoor courses or groups)?	✓			<p>The Marshyhope Creek Greenway Trail (2.5 miles long) passes through Marina Park and has a walking loop which is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile long, and has informative signage for walkers in both English and Spanish. There are also ample kayaking, boating, fishing, and water trail opportunities on the Marshyhope. This trail is part of over 45 acres of recreational land in Federalsburg and the surrounding area.</p> <p>Area sports clubs utilize our fields for youth and adult sports leagues.</p>
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?	✓			<p>Yes, residents have a grocery store and 2 Haitian markets that carry fresh produce. We are planning on a community garden once a location is selected.</p>
7. Has there been a decrease in crime rate?	✓			<p>Overall, crime has dropped by 12% over the previous year. To put this in perspective, the current Violent Crime Rate has been reduced by 661% over the past four years. The Violent Crime Rate continues to fall in Federalsburg, in the year 2022 we dropped an additional 4% over the previous year's (2021) record low number. While the national trend for Violent Crime is up 5%, Federalsburg is recording numbers which rank among the lowest in Maryland.</p>
8. Do all residents have access to the Internet and other basic utilities and services?		✓		<p>We currently do not have a free area for residents to have access to wifi. We are distributing flyers and working on a campaign for the ACP (Affordable Connectivity Program).</p>

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

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?
1. Have there been any infill developments?	✓			New development of 40 townhouses is being built on a vacant lot in town. We are also repurposing the old Dollar General store downtown to become the Federalsburg Activities Center.
2. Has there been an increase in the amount of preserved/protected land?		✓		Due to our budget constraints, the town has not acquired any new land. We do have targeted areas once our budget constraints are resolved.
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.		✓		
4. Have there been any zoning or policy changes that have fostered growth or redevelopment in your Sustainable Community?	✓			The town and county zoning boards have relaxed ordinances or issued exemptions to attract businesses to the industrial parks, on an individual negotiated basis.

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

5. Have there been any significant improvements to the municipal infrastructure within the Sustainable Community (i.e. street lighting, water/sewer lines)?	✓			<p>Town continues to install new LED street lamps, street trees, planters, and new trash receptacles in the downtown area and benches have been installed in our legacy park. We added a solar field to support our waste water treatment plant.</p> <p>Old Denton Road waterline was replaced</p> <p>The Town installed remote read water meters throughout the Town, allowing residents to monitor their own water usage and save staff time.</p> <p>The Town is actively seeking funding for replacement of our pump stations.</p>
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?	✓			<p>The Town has contracted out some grass cutting services to offload some burden on our employees. Duties for water and sewer and public works have been separated but due to staffing constraints, staff are supporting all areas of public works.</p> <p>We implemented remote read water meters to free up 3 months of staff time.</p> <p>We have started doing trainings with LGIT for staff and we have enrolled our code enforcement officer in professional organization supporting</p> <p>We have contracted our rental inspection services as well as sire plan reviews.</p>
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?	✓			<p>We are in the middle of renewing our Comprehensive plan. The plan is 80% complete and we have one more community input event to be scheduled.</p>
OTHER:				

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 Legacy (CL): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant for restaurant Grant for Design of new pump station 	DHCD	\$100,000 \$700,000		In progress In progress
Strategic Demolition Fund (SDF): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	DHCD		Could use some education on available grant sources	
Community Safety & Enhancement Program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe Routes to School – Geraldi Blvd. 	MDOT			Completed
Maryland Bikeways Program:	MDOT		Could use some education on available grant sources	
Sidewalk Retrofit Program:	MDOT		Could use some education on available grant sources	
Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	MDE			

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

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

ARPA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used for replacement of water meters Will be used to pave phase 1 of streets. Donations to the Volunteer Fire Department, Federalsburg Activities Center and church Donation to new Choptank Health center for water and sewer hook up Upgraded Technology services 	Federal	\$2.6 million		Completed In progress Completed Completed Completed
DNR Waterway improvement fund: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pier replacement and partial bulkhead replacement Clean the waterfront and remove debris 	MDE/DNR	\$30,000 \$10,000		Completed
Rural Maryland Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Old Denton Road project 	State	\$100,000		Completed
Maryland Historic Trust <ul style="list-style-type: none"> used to repair the log cabin log 	State	\$35,000		Completed
Energy Water Infrastructure Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> solar field to offset WWTP electricity costs 	State	\$2.2 million		Completed
Police grants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Aid for Police Protection 07/01/19-6/30/20 State Aid for Police Protection 07/01/22-6/30/23 FPD Expanded Web Access 04/01/23-6/30/23 FPD Office of Accountability 07/01/22-6/30/23 FPD Office of Accountability 07/01/23-6/30/24 FPD Recruit and Retention White Paper 04/01/23-6/30/23 	State State State State GOOCP State GOOCP State GOOCP	\$45,236 \$75,281 \$7,443 \$55,000 \$35,000 \$22,750		Completed or in progress depending on the year

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

Open space - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair dugouts and concession stand at the baseball field 	Caroline County	\$20,000		Completed
MDE Maryland Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund MDE Maryland Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund Forgiveness	State/MDE	\$319,175 \$319,175		
MDE Bay Restoration Fund O&M award	State/MDE	\$30,000		
DNR/Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stormwater improvement project for Marina Park 		\$230,000		

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

We have applied for Congressional directed spending to assist us with paving streets (approx. \$1.8 million) and replacing our pump stations (4.3 million). Our pump stations were built in 1958 and are in desperate

Sustainable Community Action Plan

Town of Federalsburg

Submitted by: Town of Federalsburg

Input was collected from the following sources

**Mayor and Council of Federalsburg
Planning and Zoning Members
Input from Collective Impact Community Meetings**

Example Section

<u>Strengths</u>	<u>Weaknesses</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insert bulleted list of strengths (provide some detail as to why and how this is a strength in your community) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insert bulleted list of weaknesses (provide some detail as to why and how this is a weakness in your community)

<u>Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures</u>	<u>Strategies and Action Items</u>	<u>Implementation Partners</u>
<p>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.</p> <p>Progress Measure: What will you use to measure success toward outcome? Is it quantifiable or qualifiable?</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Which community stakeholders need to be involved to realize each action step and strategy? Name specific public and/or private sector partners.</p>
<p>Example Outcome 1: Code violations and complaints are reduced in the Sustainable Community residential areas.</p> <p>Example Progress Measures: Code violations reduced by 25% in Sustainable Community residential areas</p>	<p>Example Strategy A: Review and revise, as needed, code compliance program to reduce frequency and number of residential code violations.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Example Action 2: Conduct outreach program to determine barriers to code compliance.</p> <p>Example Action 3: Analyze code compliance program for potential inefficiencies and opportunities for proactive engagement.</p> <p>Example Action 4: Pursue façade improvement funding to assist low-income homeowners overcome barriers to code compliance.</p>	<p>Maryland Department of Planning, Maryland Department of Housing, County Planning Department, local homeowners association</p>

Environment

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

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

<u>Strengths</u>	<u>Weaknesses</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federalsburg has the most acres of parkland in Caroline County, and is built around the Marshyhope Creek which runs through the center of town and is easily accessible for recreational use. Chambers Park and Chambers Lake comprise the park lands of Federalsburg. Marina Park on the Marshyhope has a 12-slip boat dock and a soft kayak launch. Chambers Park has picnic grounds, playgrounds, tennis courts, a skateboard park, baseball diamonds, a football field, and a pavilion. Strong rural and agricultural character of the surrounding area. Strict stormwater management program and forestation regulation for all new development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks continue to be in need of maintenance, especially Chamber Park (our legacy park). Federal flood insurance restrictions impact amount that can be invested in certain properties, as much of downtown is in the flood plain. Years of use by locals from Maryland and Delaware have put a strain on the marina and it is in need of repair. Much of the SC area is in a floodplain and requires stormwater management. Most new business development has therefore occurred outside of the floodplain area – and outside of the SC boundary/downtown.

<u>Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures</u>	<u>Strategies and Action Items</u>	<u>Implementation Partners</u>
<p>Outcome 1: Encourage and promote eco-tourism along the Marshyhope Creek corridor and in Federalsburg itself.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Increased numbers of eco-tourists; presence of eco-tourism businesses in Town</p>	<p>Strategy A: Continue the upkeep of Marina Park, the Marshyhope Greenway Trail, and the VFW boat ramp.</p> <p>Strategy B: Develop strategies to encourage and promote the use of docks, boat slips, and kayaking, through market research and outreach. Connect Federalsburg’s history to the walking trails and water trail, particularly Captain John Cook’s Water Trail which is at the merge of the Nanticoke River and Marshyhope Creek.</p> <p>Strategy C: Encourage eco-tourism-centered businesses to establish themselves on Main Street.</p>	<p>Maryland Department of the Environment, local businesses, Maryland Historical Society, Caroline County Department of Economic Development, Maryland Department of Commerce, MDOT</p>

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

	<p>Strategy D: Add kayak rental / kayak storage kiosk.</p> <p>Strategy E: Pave portion of trail that is not paved.</p> <p>Strategy F: Replace remaining marina bulkhead and boat slips</p>	
<p>Outcome 2: Continue to improve stormwater management in the Town.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Increased water quality, lowered flood risk.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Implement MDE funded design to improve stormwater management, including locating funding to do the project.</p> <p>Strategy B: Encourage use of pervious surfaces in any new parking structures or sidewalks, particularly in public areas like Marina Park.</p>	MDE, DNR
<p>Outcome 3: Have a community garden for both flowers and food.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Provide sustainability skills and increase accessibility to fresh food for our residents and provide an area for our pollinators.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Locate appropriate/accessible property that suits a garden where residents can walk to instead of driving.</p> <p>Strategy B: Work with local farmers for seed/plant donations and lessons on successful farming</p> <p>Strategy C: Plant local pollinator gardens along the Marshyhope Greenway Trail in partnership with local residents and Nanticoke watershed alliance.</p>	Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit, Farm Bureau, MDE, local residents, Nanticoke watershed alliance, 4H, Caroline County Public Schools
<p>Outcome 4: Replace pump stations.</p> <p>Progress Measures: funding provided to replace failing pump stations from 1958. Failure to replace the pump station could cause a catastrophic spill into the Marshyhope. b</p>	<p>Strategy A: Secure appropriate funding sources to replace our outdated, inefficient, and failing pump stations.</p>	MDE/USDA/Congressional Directed Spending
<p>Outcome 5: Repair Chambers Lake Dam.</p> <p>Progress Measures: secure funding to repair/replace Chambers Lake Dam.</p>	<p>Strategy A: In January 2022, Town of Federalsburg received a scope of work for repair/replacement of Chambers Lake Dam. Scope of work would be used to apply for funding to repair dam deficiencies.</p>	MDE

Economy

This section is centered on economic growth and management.

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

<u>Strengths</u>		<u>Weaknesses</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 major trucking firms based in Federalsburg (Burris Logistics, East of the Bay, C&W Transport, Harbor Transport, H&M Bay, and Tri-Gas and Oil), along with many independent truckers – as many as 44 small companies. Three industrial parks (all of which are at capacity) with a variety of local, national, and international businesses. Sewing Outlet on Main Street is a destination for many in the region. Town has revolving loan fund that supports many small businesses. Located in an ideal area for eco-tourism – Federalsburg is on the Marshyhope Creek which leads to the National Captain John Smith Water Trail and has easy access to the marina and creek from Main Street. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 commercial storefront vacancies on Main Street, one of which is town-owned and has been vacant for 10 years. Four of these units are in one building, which received CL funds for façade improvement. Exterior was completed but inside still needs work. Federalsburg is surrounded by other, more vibrant main streets with a larger selection of restaurants and retail; it suffers from competition from Easton and Delaware (DE is a ten-minute drive away and has no sales tax). According to the 2021 Census, the median household and family income are nearly half of that of the County. Approximately 33.5% of households and 25.6% of families are below the poverty line. This is significantly higher than the County household (15.6%) and family (11.0%).
Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Reduce commercial storefront vacancies and build a vibrant downtown.</p> <p>Progress Measures: new business starts, reduced commercial vacancies</p>	<p>Strategy A: Seek funds to make residential and commercial upgrades to the Town-owned building so that it is more attractive to a future property owner.</p> <p>Strategy B: Offer commercial façade improvement and tenant fit out matching grant programs to assist entrepreneurs with launching new small businesses downtown.</p> <p>Strategy C: Conduct survey of residents to find out what businesses they want to see on Main Street with a DHCD sample survey.</p>	<p>DHCD</p> <p>Town of Federalsburg Revolving Business Loan Fund</p> <p>Caroline County Public Schools</p> <p>Caroline County Economic Development</p> <p>Federal sources</p>

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

	Strategy D: Turn the town restaurant into a subset of Culinary school or open a pop-up restaurant with local chefs.	
<p>Outcome 2: Connect the needs of the manufacturing companies in the industrial parks to downtown's businesses.</p> <p>Progress Measures: new business starts, presence of hotels, restaurants, etc.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Encourage the development of restaurants, bed and breakfasts/small hotels, workspaces, and storefronts which sell products produced by the local businesses.</p> <p>Strategy B: Work with industrial/commercial real estate brokers to fill our new section of the industrial park which might contribute to downtown.</p> <p>Strategy C: Work toward revitalizing the community business partnership.</p>	Local manufacturing companies, civic and business associations
<p>Outcome 3: Partner with restaurants on the river to offer food packages for boaters or kayakers delivered to the pier so they don't need to leave their boat.</p> <p>Progress Measures: downtown restaurants see an increase in boater traffic purchasing food from them.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Place signage at both the marina and Northwest Fork Dock advertising boater lunch specials delivered to your boat at the dock</p> <p>Strategy B: Advertise on social media "boaters food Packages" to drive business to our restaurants on the river.</p>	Local businesses
<p>Outcome 3: Partner with our local library to run classes from their already established catalog such as starting a business, financial planning, accounting, etc.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Residents looking for job training, starting a business or finding a new job would learn the skills necessary to improve their current situation.</p>	Strategy A: Schedule classes in the Federalsburg area so residents can easily access the classes.	Caroline County Library and Queenstown College
<p>Outcome 4: Partner with our local food trucks to allow them to park on Town property to give people in the industrial park other food options. Food trucks would pay for the opportunity thus generating more traffic in Town.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Food trucks sign up for this opportunity.</p>	Strategy A: Work with food trucks and business in the industrial park advertising the schedule of food trucks.	Local food trucks
<p>Outcome 5: Install rentable bikes on scooters for visitors to get around town and use our bike trails.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Work with a company to install rentals.</p> <p>Strategy B: Advertise for rentals and partner with local restaurants to offer packages to people renting scooters or bikes. This would increase traffic in our local restaurants.</p>	DHCD, MDOT, Delmarva power, scooter, or bike rental companies

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

Progress Measures: Scooters/Bikes are rented and Town generates some income as well as area business.		
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<h1 style="text-align: center;">Transportation</h1> <p style="text-align: center;">This section describes the way people in your community get from place to place.</p> <p>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.</p>		
Strengths	Weaknesses	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freight rail service runs through the Town, serving the industrial parks and the surrounding areas and stretching into Delaware. Federalsburg is well-served by local roads. Federalsburg is served by MD Upper Shore Transit/Delmarva Community Transit. The 2.5-mile Marshyhope Greenway Trail is used as a bike trail to connect to both downtown Federalsburg and the nature sections of the trail system for more active bike riding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federalsburg does not have a connected system of bike trails. Many sidewalks are not ADA accessible. High pedestrian areas do not have sidewalks (area around Dollar General, Royal Farms, McDonalds and Food Lion). 	

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Increase bike ability and walkability of Federalsburg.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Linear feet of new bike or walking trails.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Develop detailed plans for bicycle routes, bicycle parking and storage facilities, and signage, including an easily identified logo that signifies bike routes. Seek funding to create these bike routes to allow safe passage via bike to the jobs in the industrial park.</p> <p>Strategy B: Link the Marshyhope hiker/biker trail with an expanded bikeway within and around Town.</p>	MDOT (Maryland Bikeways)
<p>Outcome 2: Ensure the continued viability of the Maryland Delaware Railroad.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Continued operation of the railroad.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Explore the feasibility of constructing trans-loading facilities at the industrial parks served by the railroad.</p>	MDOT, Maryland Delaware Railroad

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<p>Outcome 3: Pave streets, increase sidewalks and sidewalk accessibility (ADA).</p> <p>Progress Measures: survey areas needing sidewalks and curb ramps.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Target areas with high pedestrian traffic to ensure safe routes to stores</p> <p>Strategy B: Paint crosswalks in high pedestrian areas</p>	<p>MDOT/SHA</p>
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Housing

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

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

Strengths		Weaknesses	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town manages rental property registry and code enforcement. Federalsburg had 996 total households in 2021 which is down 7.9% from 2010 and is 6.3% higher than the 1.6% decrease in the County over the decade. Of these households, 707 are family households and 289 are non-family households. Approximately 344 are owner-occupied and the rest rented. Five apartment complexes serving seniors and low-income populations. Average rental price is \$1000/month, and the average purchase price of a home is \$121,300. Federalsburg is reasonably affordable. New development with 40 town houses is currently under construction. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The housing stock is older. Most housing was built between 1880 and 1950. Approximately 20 residential vacancies throughout Town – including properties that are significantly dilapidated. Only ¼ of employees in the industrial parks live in the Town. One large vacant parcel waiting for residential development inside the SC area (62 acres) 8-10 upper stories of mixed-use buildings are in need of renovations to reach code compliance. Over 650 rental properties 	
Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items		Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Encourage more industrial park employees to live in the Town.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Higher home ownership rate, number of new homeowners employed by industrials parks, development of local tax base.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Partner with manufacturing companies to establish a Live Near Your Work program for employees at industrial parks.</p> <p>Strategy B: Create down payment assistance incentives for industrial park employees to become Federalsburg homeowners.</p>		Industrial park businesses, DHCD (Maryland Mortgage Program, etc.) Habitat for Humanity, MRDC, USDA
<p>Outcome 2: Reduce residential vacancies and make the existing housing stock more attractive.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Reduced vacancy rate, façade repairs and renovations, higher homeownership rate.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Partner with Habitat for Humanity to renovate or replace dilapidated properties and transform them into affordable housing.</p> <p>Strategy B: Bring in a developer for a house community to appeal to aging population and young employees with small families.</p> <p>Strategy C: Launch a residential façade improvement program to beautify target blocks and/or help income-restricted homeowners spruce up their exteriors.</p>		Habitat for Humanity, local developers, DHCD

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	Strategy D: Add local play grounds for the residents to utilize within the neighborhood.	
Outcome 3: Build new housing stock, including affordable housing. Progress measures: Presence of new housing stock.	Strategy A: A local developer seeks to expand into the Brooklyn neighborhood, creating ADA-compliant housing units while demolishing vacant rental stock. Strategy B: sell all of the new 40 townhomes being built in Town.	Local developers
Outcome 4: Remove blighted homes. Progress measures: Removal of unsafe and unsightly houses.	Strategy A: Work with builders to remove and or rehab blighted houses thus increasing property values for residents.	DHCD

Community Health and Quality of Life

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

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

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Small town feel, with historic agricultural and industrial base, surrounded by rural greenery.• Multitude of intact designated historic properties, one of which is the original rail station used by the MD-DE freight rail line.• Growing diverse population, with many Haitian immigrants.• 2.5 mile greenway trail, with interpretive signs and rustic exercise trails, runs through the Town.• The Lions Club is a strong partner to the Town on various neighborhood improvement efforts.• Lions Hall/ community center was recently renovated and serves as a rental facility for parties, receptions, business meetings, etc.• The Town has maintenance health care available through Choptank Community Health Systems, which includes Choptank Federalsburg Dental Center. In addition, Corsica River Mental Health, Federalsburg Family Practice (an outpatient facility of Nanticoke Hospital in Delaware) and Advantage Rehab are located in the Town, as is a family-owned drug store.• Previously vacant Dollar General is being converted to an Activities Center downtown.• Decreased Crime and FPD officers are trained in crisis intervention to de-escalate encounters with mentally ill individuals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Downtown is visually bland, especially in comparison to the historic properties in other parts of the town.• The Town's business and civic association does not often meet.• There is no major medical facility in or near Federalsburg; emergencies go to Delaware. In addition, Federalsburg has lost both of its private dentistry practices in recent years.• Senior Center is not utilized as much as it should be. Could use more programming targeted as seniors.

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Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Develop a Main Street which looks and feels like the historic town of Federalsburg and attracts foot traffic.</p> <p>Progress Measures: reoccupation of vacant commercial properties, increased foot traffic, visual branding.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Establish historic walking tours of Town, including the historic train station. Design, fabricate, and install markers for a self-guided tour and/or recruit volunteer tour guides from the community.</p> <p>Strategy B: Continue to beautify downtown with new street lights, trees, trash cans, wayfinding signs, and historic markers. Continue to improve the façades of Main Street properties, including residential ones.</p> <p>Strategy C: Establish Design Guidelines for properties on Main Street to maintain a more distinct character of the Town.</p>	<p>Maryland Historical Trust, Maryland Heritage Area</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Increase food choice and access to local food for Town residents.</p> <p>Progress Measures: return of farmer's market, opening of new groceries and restaurants within SC area.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Re-establish farmers' market in front of kombucha brewery, and encourage business owner and others to vend agri-business products and products sold on downtown Main Street.</p> <p>Strategy B: Locate a tenant for the vacant restaurant property currently owned by the Town, and further the plans of opening a family sports bar at the other end of Main Street. Possibility of satellite location for Chesapeake Culinary School or pop-up restaurant.</p>	<p>local entrepreneurs, Caroline County Public Schools, DHCD</p>
<p>Outcome 3: Park enhancements</p> <p>Progress Measures: increased use of our parks and recreational spaces.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Resurface existing tennis courts and add pickle ball lines</p> <p>Strategy B: Add public restroom facilities thus removing the need for porta potties.</p> <p>Strategy C: Add bleachers at the basketball court for residents to utilize during games.</p> <p>Strategy D: Install exercise equipment along the Marshyhope Greenway Trail.</p>	<p>Caroline County Recreation and Parks DHCD local business partnerships</p>
<p>Outcome 3: Community Gatherings</p> <p>Progress Measures: increased use of our parks and recreational spaces via Town coordinated events drawing people into our downtown district.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Start a summer concert series on the water at our downtown dock.</p> <p>Strategy B: Hold annual signature events such as Federalsburg Flotilla, Madness on the Marshyhope Blue Catfish Tournament, Dining at the Dock.</p>	<p>Arts Council, local business partnerships, Coastal Conservation Association of MD, MDE, DNR</p>
<p>Outcome 4: Public Art</p> <p>Progress Measures: increased use of our open space for public art installations.</p>	<p>Strategy A: identify areas suitable for public art installations varying from murals to sculptural art.</p>	<p>Arts Council, local business partnerships, Caroline County Public Schools</p>

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<p>Outcome 5: Open Federalsburg Activities Center</p> <p>Progress Measures: building is open for all residents of Federalsburg to use for various community needs.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Complete construction of the activities center</p> <p>Strategy B: Survey Town residents to see what current needs and interests exists for the site</p> <p>Strategy C: Fund and staff accordingly with various programs to ensure success</p>	<p>DHCD State funding</p>
<p>Outcome 6: Better utilization of Senior Center</p> <p>Progress Measures: Increased participation in our Senior Center</p>	<p>Strategy A: Work with area partners to offer bus trips, book clubs, classes on nutrition, cyber security, etc.</p>	<p>Library, local residents that have a skill they are willing to volunteer, Caroline County Department of Aging and Senior Center, state agencies</p>

Local Planning and Staffing Capacity

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

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

Strengths		Weaknesses	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Town planning and zoning authority offers significant flexibility in encouraging growth and development, and is often willing to adjust ordinances for appropriate businesses.Our wastewater treatment plant is not at capacity thus allowing for future development.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Housing stock is very old and not zoned for mixed-use development or density.Our pump stations and outdated infrastructure need to be replaced.	
Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items		Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: Fill the newly acquired space that was added to our existing industrial park. Progress Measures: zoning of parcels, businesses beginning development	Strategy A: Town continues to attract local, national, and international businesses who would like to develop land in the industrial parks		Town and County zoning boards, private businesses
Outcome 2: Expand public safety to continue to keep residents safe Progress Measures: continued decrease crime numbers	Strategy A: Hire more public safety staff		GOOCP