



July 10, 2015

Council Connections

Bridging Allegany, Garrett and Washington Counties



Tri County Council
For Western Maryland

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Dates to Remember

July 29, 2015
[MEDA Summer Conference](#)
Baltimore, MD

August 12-15, 2015
[MACo Summer Conference](#)
Ocean City, MD



Grantsville Revitalization Plan and Agricultural Village Study

The [Appalachian Regional Commission](#) announced approval of a \$25,000 grant to the Town of Grantsville for the Grantsville Revitalization Plan and Agricultural Village Study project. This strategic planning approach will coordinate several disparate plans into a cohesive design that provides professional guidance and local stakeholders input in the development of a viable economic vision and plan. The project involves the development of a plan for the restoration and revitalization of the National Road Main Street section of the Town of Grantsville.

The plan will cover the area along National Road for about 1.25 miles starting at River Road on the east side of town (including the current artisan village of Penn Alps) and continuing to the intersection of Route 669 on the west end of town (including the site of the proposed Agricultural Village). The Plan will include such components as: utility verification, stakeholders meetings, identification of linkages with the Heritage Area Management Plan and interpretative framework per the Heritage Area Management Plan, final design study and guidelines, and development of interpretation signage and map for linkage to historic and heritage sites. The project will also involve preparation of an Agricultural Village study that will include feasibility,

facility location planning, streetscape and traffic/freight planning and enhanced recruiting strategies for complementary businesses.

The Revitalization Plan and Agriculture Village Study will serve as a blueprint for the area into a significant historic attraction and commercially viable area. In addition to ARC funds, the Maryland Historical Areas Authority will provide \$25,000, bringing the total project funding to \$50,000.



2015 Local Foods, Local Places Assistance

The Obama Administration announced the FY15 competition of the Local Foods, Local Places program, an interagency initiative of the [White House Rural Council](#). Communities will receive direct technical assistance to develop plans for strengthening their local food economy, along with small implementation grants from [ARC](#). This is the third year that ARC has participated, using Co-Chair funds.

In the FY14 round, eight Appalachian communities were selected. The program is targeted to communities that are in the early stages of developing their local food systems and is designed to boost economic opportunities for local farmers and businesses; improve access to healthy local food and promote childhood wellness (including providing SNAP benefits); and create walkable, healthy, economically vibrant neighborhoods. Applicants are encouraged to partner with either a local development district or a community college.

Click [here](#) for the ARC announcement. The general requirements and online application form are found [here](#).

The application deadline is **September 15**. The partnering agencies are ARC, DRA, USDA, EPA, CDC, and DOT. For additional information, you may contact Ervin Johnson, ejohnson@arc.gov.



**City of Hagerstown
Retail & Restaurant Incentive:**

New restaurants and retail businesses have another reason to find their home in the City Center's Main Street area. Mayor & Council approved a grant program that will help with start-up costs and capital expenses for new businesses. Grants will range from \$2,000 - \$4,000, and are geared specifically for restaurants and retailers.

Full program guidelines are available on the City of Hagerstown's website by clicking [here](#).

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