

**Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development**  
**Community Legacy Program**

*FY 2010 Budget Request: \$7,000,000*

Community Legacy provides local governments and community development organizations with funding for essential projects aimed at strengthening communities through activities such as business retention and attraction, encouraging homeownership and commercial revitalization.

Funding, in the form of grants and loans is available for projects located in Priority Funding Areas and is meant to compliment or supplement other State funding programs. As part of a competitive application process, communities are required to have, or develop a comprehensive revitalization plan that specifically identifies projects meant to revitalize at-risk or transitional areas.

Projects capitalize on the strengths of a community and are part of a larger strategy to revitalize a declining area. Projects/activities typically include, but are not limited to:

- Mixed-use development consisting of residential, commercial and/or open space
- Business retention, expansion and attraction initiatives
- Streetscape improvements
- Increasing homeownership and home rehabilitation among residents
- Residential and commercial façade improvement programs
- Real estate acquisition, including land banking, and strategic demolition
- Establishing funds to provide loan guarantees and credit enhancement to leverage other public or private financing

Since its inception in 2002, Community Legacy has:

- Supported 526 projects across Maryland
- Awarded \$53.9 million toward local projects
- Supported local projects with a total value of more than \$346 million

Projects such as:

- **Allegany County:** Upper story redevelopment as part of a successful Main Street revitalization strategy in Cumberland.
- **Anne Arundel County:** Streetscape, façade repairs, signage and other activities in the Clay Street area of Annapolis; sliding-scale home rehabilitation assistance to homeowners in Brooklyn Park.
- **Baltimore City:** Community Legacy support in Brooklyn/Curtis Bay has cut vacancies through direct rehab of 15 homes and construction of 8 new and affordable “green” homes; strategic repairs to 51 homes in the Operation Reach Out Southwest coalition area; improvements to the Great Blacks in Wax Museum in Oliver.
- **Harford County:** Code enforcement and emergency home repairs in Edgewood; streetscaping, façade improvements, and operating funds for a new Downtown Main Street Association in Havre de Grace.
- **St. Mary's County:** Redevelopment of Leonardtown Wharf, a mixed-use project that includes a public waterfront park, housing and retail shops.

Without Community Legacy funding many of these local projects would never have been completed. Community Legacy provides crucial "gap" funding to help stem decline in older communities, preventing the larger outlays needed for distressed areas and building on community strengths to return them to more thriving, revenue-producing neighborhoods.

**Maryland Heritage Council**

