



Update: January 2016

Getting Ahead

Congratulations to the 11 investigators who graduated from Getting Ahead! Highlights from their experience and what was learned as a community will be shared in the February update. One of the graduates has agreed to co-facilitate the next class. Allegany College of Maryland's Foundation has agreed to sponsor a Getting Ahead class. There are two options for the 16 week program, see details below. Flyers are available for distribution. Transportation and child care are available if needed. Weekly compensation will be provided to active participants. Anyone interested should call 240-964-8422.

Tuesdays 9:00am – 11:30am
Jane Frazier Village
635 E. First St., Cumberland
February 16- May 31, 2016

Thursdays 3:30pm – 6:00pm
Allegany College of MD CE Bldg.
12401 Willowbrook Rd., Cumberland
March 3- June 23, 2016

Ally & Resource Partners are needed. We were able to find a match for all of the recent Getting Ahead graduates, but we will need more for the graduates in June. Anyone interested should call 240-964-8422 for an application packet. Training will be held this spring.

Resource Partners are people with expertise in specific areas that can be called upon when a need arises. If you have expertise in housing, finance, education, transportation, or child care, and are willing to share your expertise, please sign up as a resource partner.

Youth Engagement- 1,088 7th and 9th grade students in public and private schools participated in an online survey to measure their perceptions of the community, future education and career plans, and desire to live in the local area in the future. The insight from this survey and the focus groups is available as a presentation or in an assessment report. Thank you to the Rural Maryland Council and all the public and private schools in Allegany County for their assistance. Here are just a few of the ideas the youth had to make our community better:

- Add more things for youth to enjoy (stores, playgrounds, restaurants)
- More jobs, including jobs for youth
- Have more opportunities to help other people and volunteer
- Clean up our community (Pick up trash and recycle and Fix up houses and streets)
- Reduce drugs and crime rates

Policy- An infographic to demonstrate the cliff effect for a single parent with two children in Allegany County, MD has been created. This visual demonstrates how policy impacts poverty. Copies are available upon request and the infographic will be posted to the website (www.bridges2opportunity.com). A variety of resource tips have also been created and will be posted including the issues of pay day loans, rent to own, cleaning your court record, and more.

Resource Building- More targeted follow up has begun with the businesses invited to the session with Megan from Gettysburg. Efforts to improve transportation options are being explored with employers and service providers. A study to determine effective and efficient strategies to address identified transportation needs, including coordination of available funds & resources is planned. Steve Kesner agreed to present an "Orientation to Affordable Public Housing" and Joy Reckley-Murphy agreed to present "Dealing with Behavioral Challenges" at the Mountain Maryland Association of Property Owners February 9th meeting from 6-7:45pm in the South Cumberland Library. These are just a few examples of the bridges being built in our community through this initiative.

Upcoming Meetings and Presentations

Jan.19th	11:45-1:00pm	Partner Networking Session	Frostburg Library
Jan. 26th	3:30-5pm	Ally Partner Workgroup	WMRMC Auditorium
Jan. 26th	5:30-6:30pm	Getting Ahead/Engagement of All Wkgroup	Wellness Conference, WOC
Feb. 2	12-1pm	PR Committee	ACT Personnel
Feb. 11	8:30-10:00am	Steering Committee	WMRMC Auditorium
Feb. 11	6:30-7:30pm	Bridges Presentation- Public Forum sponsored by Democratic Central Comm.	Allegany College of Maryland CE-18

For more information contact Nancy Forlifer, Facilitator at 240-964-8422 or nforlifer@wmhs.com.