

Regional Resources Reports Baltimore

Regional Resources Teams, comprised of the 10 State Agencies of the <u>Governor's Commerce Subcabinet</u> as well as the Governor's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, were formed in 2019 to improve communication and collaboration between state agencies representatives in their respective regions across the state. The teams meet regularly to provide project updates and identify opportunities to assist businesses and local jurisdictions with economic development efforts. This report exemplifies how the Regional Resources Team is collaborating to support the greater Baltimore area.

The Baltimore Regional Team is comprised of six Maryland counties and Baltimore City with representatives from more than thirteen Maryland agencies. These agencies serve a population of 2.7 million and more than 65,000 business establishments. Team members are committed to updating the priorities of their respective department and collaborating with Regional Resource teammates to meet the needs of Maryland constituents and support businesses as they plan, start, and grow. The team also supports business retention.

In 2019, the team developed action plans for two items involving legislative requirements to address Baltimore City School compliance with lead pipe abatement. The second plan addressed the promotion of the State of Maryland <u>Business Express</u> website. The multi-agency Team was focused on these action plans until March of 2020 when a new team lead was named and reassessment of the plans were made.

In Mid-March 2020, all agencies had to refocus and adjust duties as assigned to address the COVID-19 pandemic. Many agency representatives were reassigned to grant management and support of the Management Agency's assistance to businesses in meeting Governor Hogan's Executive Orders to mitigate the virus. As this unfolded, the team shifted its focus to saving businesses and providing support using the resources made available through the Governor's Executive Orders.

Throughout the pandemic, the team implemented outreach to promote the Business Express website, which also was the business reference website for COVID-19 related assistance. The team worked diligently to conduct webinars and workshops to promote the Business Express website and provide prospective businesses with vital information.

As team members return to their assigned State Agencies, the team will focus on opportunities to collaborate in support of: redevelopment projects in Baltimore City, the creation of the Chesapeake Recreation Trail, the Howard Street Tunnel, and apprenticeships and workforce needs. The team holds digital meetings during which members update each other on current projects and engage in cross-agency collaboration.