



consideration before the full Senate. Funding is not finalized until the Appropriations bills are passed by the full Senate, reconciled with the House of Representatives, and signed by the President.

“When we invest federal dollars in our communities, we’re able to directly support local priorities. These funds will empower our community partners across Maryland to support our children, seniors, students, veterans, job-seekers and more. We’ll keep working to deliver these investments to build an even stronger Maryland for all,” **said Senator Van Hollen.**

“People are at the heart of every decision our Delegation makes, and it’s crucial that we recognize the unique needs of our state’s rural areas. By building up local programs that improve access to healthcare and education, support agriculture and center rural communities, we are working to ensure that people can thrive from Western Maryland to the Eastern Shore, and everywhere in between,” **said Senator Cardin.**

These projects were included in the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture’s FY2025 funding legislation. Additional projects will be announced as the Subcommittees continue to release their respective bills.

**Project Name: STEM Makerspace at the New La Plata Library**

Applicant: Charles County Public Library

Project Purpose: Funds will be used to purchase STEM related equipment such as 3D printers and laser cutters to support development of a new makerspace at the newly constructed library and serve the growing La Plata community.

Project Location: Charles County

Amount Included: \$63,000

**Project Name: Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) Phase 2**

Recipient: USDA - BARC

Project Purpose: Funds will be used for facilities renovation and infrastructure improvements that are essential to continue the vital agricultural research at BARC.

Project Location: Prince George's County

Amount Included: \$5,000,000

**Project Name: Federalsburg Activities Center**

Recipient: Federalsburg Activities Center

Project Purpose: Funds will be used to convert a former retail space in a community center to provide youth mentorship programs and activities for seniors.

Project Location: Caroline County

Amount Included: \$180,000

**Project Name: Friendsville Library Construction Funding**

Recipient: Ruth Enlow Library of Garrett County

Project Purpose: Funds will support construction of a new permanent building for the Ruth Enlow Library in Friendsville to replace a "temporary" metal structure that has been in place since 1970, improving service to the community.

Project Location: Garrett County

Amount Included: \$295,000

**Project Name: St. Mary's Caring Soup Kitchen Service Expansion**

Recipient: St. Mary's Caring, Inc.

Project Purpose: Funds will support renovation of the St. Mary's Caring Soup Kitchen, allowing for more free meals to those in need and expansion of other services.

Project Location: St. Mary's County

Amount Included: \$150,000

**Project Name: The Foxie G Foundation Horses Helping People Center**

Recipient: The Foxie G Foundation, Inc.

Project Purpose: Funds will be used to support the construction and development of an equine-assisted therapy center to provide mental health services to veterans, first-responders, dementia patients and their caregivers, and at-risk youth.

Project Location: Frederick County

Amount Included: \$429,000

**Project Name: Berlin Community Center at Historic Flower Street School Site**

Recipient: Town of Berlin

Project Purpose: Funds will support the development of a multigenerational community center that will house the SHORE UP! Head Start Center, programs for kids and families, computer labs, and recreational spaces. It will also share the history of the segregated Flower Street School that was once at the site.

Project Location: Worcester County

Amount Included: \$479,000

### **Project Name: Town of Eagle Harbor Community Revitalization**

Recipient: Town of Eagle Harbor, Inc.

Project Purpose: Funds will support expansion and renovation of the Eagle Harbor Community Center and new downtown outdoor amenities, including a park, an outdoor pavilion, and performance space.

Project Location: Prince George's County

Amount Included: \$800,000

**Additional priorities secured by the Senators in the FY25 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies funding bill include:**

- **Chesapeake Bay States Partnership Initiative (C-SPI) report language** that recognizes the important role of voluntary conservation practices in restoring waterways especially when deployed at scale. The language supports USDA's continuation of the C-SPI and encourages the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to target additional technical assistance to the most effective basin areas of the watershed to reduce agricultural runoff in the Chesapeake Bay.
- **\$840 million for Conservation Technical Assistance** – a \$40 million increase over FY24 – in which Natural Resources Conservation Service staff work one-on-one with farmers to conserve resources and prevent run-off. The bill also includes language expressing the Committee's view that additional technical assistance should be provided to Critical Conservation Areas like the Chesapeake Bay Watershed because a lack of planning capacity can slow down projects in our region.

- **Blue Catfish** – the bill provides the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service \$1 million to cover overtime fees at invasive blue catfish facilities and directs the department to expand eligible uses of these funds to include equipment and infrastructure to promote blue catfish processing. A lack of inspection capacity and processing infrastructure have been key challenges for Maryland’s nascent wild-caught Blue Catfish industry. This funding will help to address those challenges and support the Maryland seafood industry -- improving Maryland food security and the health of the Chesapeake Bay through increased harvest of these invasive (but delicious) fish.
- **Addressing supply shortages for critical medications** – Given continued reports of supply shortages of important medications and devices to treat conditions such as diabetes, ADHD, cancer, the bill includes language directing the FDA to report on its implementation of shortage-related authorities, and the status of shortage related guidance documents.
- **Funding for programs at historically Black 1890 Land-Grant institutions like the University of Maryland Eastern Shore:**
  - Research: \$89 million
  - Extension Services: \$72 million
  - Education Grants: \$30 million
  - Facility Improvements: \$21.5 million
  - Scholarships: \$10 million
  - Centers of Excellence: \$10 million

#### **Other highlights:**

- **\$7.697 billion for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC)**, a \$667 million increase over fiscal year 2024. This increase will ensure that all eligible participants can continue to rely on the essential nutrition assistance and support provided by WIC. The bill also continues full funding for additional fruit and vegetable benefits.
- **Full funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** to serve an estimated 42 million people per month.
- **Full funding for Child Nutrition Programs** – such as the School Lunch program, school breakfast program, and Summer EBT program – to ensure schools can continue to serve healthy meals to all eligible children. In 2025, this funding will help serve an estimated 5 billion lunches and 2.7 billion breakfasts to kids across the country.

- **\$1.019 billion** – a \$68 million increase over FY24 – for conservation programs. The bill also directs USDA to prioritize multi-benefit projects in the Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations program. This funding will support efforts in the Chesapeake that improve farm resilience while protecting and restoring the Bay.
- **\$1.87 billion** – a \$29 million increase over FY24 – for the **Agricultural Research Service**, the Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) premiere in-house research agency. One of USDA’s agricultural research centers is located in Beltsville, Maryland.

---

Print

Email



Tweet

---

Previous Article

[About](#) \ [Constituent Services](#) \ [Issues](#) \ [News](#) \ [Contact](#)



[Privacy Policy](#)